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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 10th March, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN:

Mr. Krishna Prasada, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

REVIVAL OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

†771. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the advisability of reviving the Planning and Development Department which was abolished by the Caretaker Government?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: The question of the future machinery of Planning was referred to the Advisory Planning Board recently appointed by Government. The Board has presented its report which is being examined.

LACK OF COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT IN NORTH KANARA DISTRICT

772. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Transport please state if it is a fact that the North Kanara District is lacking in sufficient means of communication and transport and if so, what steps Government propose to take to provide the necessary facilities?

(b) Do Government propose to introduce railway communication in the district as a measure of post-war re-construction and, if so, when and to what extent?

(c) Will Bhatkal an important centre in the district be linked up with the proposed railway line? If not, why not?

(d) Have the Government of India received any proposals in this respect from the Government of Bombay, if so, what are they?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 98 on the 8th February 1946, reproduced in Vol. I, No. 18 of the printed Debates. In giving more up-to-date information now, I shall also repeat the gist of that answer.

(a) It is difficult to determine without a full survey the means of communication that would be sufficient for any given area. As regards roads, the requirements will be covered by the five-year road development plan of the Government of Bombay when that is finalised.

(b) The survey investigations of the proposed railway from Alnar to Karwar have been postponed for the present as the preliminary investigations reveal that (i) the potential passenger traffic is expected to be negligible; and (ii) the prospects of goods traffic, which depend entirely on traffic from forest industries, are not expected to be bright since the provincial Forest Department's scheme is not likely to develop for another five or ten years.

(c) There is no proposal at present under consideration to construct a railway line to Bhatkal. It is considered premature to order a survey in this area without some consideration of the future of Bhatkal port.

(d) The Government of Bombay have probably studied this matter in the course of the preparation of their road plans. Their original road plan, which is under revision, included the development of a Provincial Highway going north from Bhatkal to link up with the National Highway system.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether there is a proposal to connect the last point on the railway line in South Kanara to the nearest point of the Bombay Presidency?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not to my knowledge.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has there been repeated representations to the effect that this short distance should be covered by rail, so that passengers from Mangalore to Bombay might not have to travel the distance via Madras circuitously?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware whether any representations have been received.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that this question was raised during the budget discussion?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: You mean the linking up of South Kanara with the rest of the Bombay Presidency?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot remember the details.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member please state what might be the distance from the last point in the railway line in South Kanara and the nearest point in Bombay?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot answer the question offhand.

FACTORY FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF SPINDLES IN INDIA

773. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that an agreement has been reached by the Textile Delegation to the United Kingdom to the effect that Textile machinery manufacturers in England and India are to establish a factory for the manufacture of spindles in India?

(b) If so, what are the details of the agreement and the number of spindles expected to be manufactured every month?

(c) What will be the capital of this concern and what will be the extent of capital to be subscribed in Britain and India?

(d) What help have Government offered for the establishment of this factory in money and materials?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes, Sir, the Government are informed to this effect.

(b) The Government have seen a record of decisions reached at a meeting between the members of the Indian Textile Delegation and the Textile Machinery Makers, Ltd. The decisions provide that, while 74 per cent. of the shares and the controlling interest will be held by Indians, the English manufacturers will have a 26 per cent. financial interest in the company and will be represented on its Board up to a fourth of the total strength. The company is expected to manufacture 40,000 spindles per month.

(c) It is stated that the company will be formed with a capital of Rs. 14 crores. Of this the English company Messrs. Textile Machinery Makers Ltd., will have shares of Rs. 39 lakhs, which will consist of Rs. 13 lakhs worth of shares to be subscribed for in cash and fully paid-up shares of Rs. 26 lakhs free of payment in return for goodwill, patent rights, technical assistance, and benefits of all past and future research.

(d) The Government of India have only helped by arranging passages, exchange facilities, etc. No help has been given in money or materials.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member please state how the production of spindles by this company will be co-related to Government's policy of restricting the amount of machinery imported and generally of limiting licences with regard to textile mills?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The supply of machinery for replacement and such other services will not in any manner interfere with the Government's plan but if there is any difficulty the matter will be examined then and decided and it is premature to discuss it just now.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member please state what is the expected production of spindles per annum by this company and whether that will be sufficient to replace all the spindles that will require to be replaced during the year?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: This is only one company and it is not intended or expected that it should supply all the requirements. Other companies also are likely to come up.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Honourable Member considered the desirability of taking up this matter as a State enterprise instead of leaving it to private enterprise?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The suggestion will be considered along with many other suggestions that have been made for state enterprise in industry.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that till now there has been no private enterprise in this direction, will Government consider the advisability of giving priority to this particular matter?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: There is a concern already at work in this direction but even a assistance is given to this company also.

CAUSES OF AIR MAIL DELAYS

774. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state whether he has seen letters in the *Times of India*, dated the 15th January, 1947 from various correspondents under the heading "Air mail delays" complaining against the delay in the delivery of air mail letters?

(b) If so, what are the causes of the delay and what steps do Government propose to take to see that air mail letters are delivered without delay?

Mr. Masrani Laxman Tukarti: (a) Yes, but only two letters appeared in the *Times of India* dated 15th January, 1947 of which one was from the Honourable Member himself.

(b) Air mail letters are occasionally delayed for the following reasons—

- (1) misdirection of air mails by inexperienced staff on some occasions,
- (2) air mail articles sometimes get mixed up with surface mail articles,
- (3) air mail labels are not sometimes affixed to the articles,
- (4) late arrival of planes,
- (5) breakdown of transport.

The following steps have been taken to prevent delay to air mails.—

- (1) staff has been sanctioned for the office of each Postmaster General for the preparation of air mail sorting lists for the guidance of the sorters,
- (2) instructions have also been issued for the proper supervision of air mail sorting work by the Inspectors,
- (3) it is under consideration to introduce special air mail covers and envelopes so that the sorters are able to distinguish them easily from the surface mail labels,
- (4) it has also been decided to provide special letter boxes for important towns for the posting of air mail articles.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Will the Honourable Member explain how an air mail letter sent from here to Bombay with the object of reaching there quickly reaches there after four days and how this could have possibly occurred in the series of causes which he gives?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: This can be found out only if the Honourable Member supplies me with the cover of the letter.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With regard to the reply to part (a) of the question where the Honourable Member states that only two letters appeared in the *Times of India*, may I ask whether his Department is subscribing to the *Times of India* or the *Times*, London—because I know that twelve letters have appeared in the *Times of India* on this subject.

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: I was confining myself to the *Times of India* of the 16th January 1947.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it possible that many other letters addressed to the *Times of India* have been delayed?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: I have no information, Sir

REDUCTION OF AIR MAIL POSTAGE FROM INDIA TO LONDON, CEYLON, ETC.

775. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state if it is a fact that air mail postage rates from Britain to India, Ceylon, Malaya, Hongkong, Egypt, Palestine and Iraq have been reduced from 1 sh. 3d to 1 sh. for a half-ounce letter and from 7d to 6d. for a post card?

(b) What is the present rate of postage by air mail for letters of half-ounce and postcards from India to London, Ceylon, Malaya, Hongkong, Egypt, Palestine and Iraq?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of reducing the postage rates for letters and postcards by air mail from India to London, Ceylon, Malaya, Hongkong, Egypt, Palestine and Iraq?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: (a) Yes. The rates for air mails to Egypt, Palestine and Iraq have been reduced by the British Post Office to 6d. for half ounce for letter and 3d. for postcards.

(b) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(c) The air mail surcharge for Ceylon is the same as the surcharge for inland air mails. The question of the reduction of the surcharge for other places is under examination of the Government.

STATEMENT SHOWING AIR MAIL RATES FROM INDIA TO LONDON, CEYLON, ETC.

Serial No.	Destination	Rate per half ounce for letters excluding postage	Rate per postcard including postage
		Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
1	England	0 14 0*	0 4 0
2	Ceylon	0 1 0	0 1 0
3	Malaya	(per tola) 0 14 0*	0 4 0
4	Hongkong	1 2 0	0 8 0
5	Egypt	0 14 0*	0 4 0
6	Palestine	0 14 0*	0 4 0
7	Iraq	1 0 0	0 8 0

Shri Sri Prakasa: How is it that the postage from India to other countries is higher than the postage from those countries to India?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: It is so in some cases. The rates were fixed under the old Empire Air Mail scheme which is now being wound up. The entire rates for the countries outside India are under examination by the Government and we hope to announce the reduced rates soon.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is there not a convention that postage should be uniform for all countries?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: It has been so far under the Empire Air Mail Scheme. The rates were reduced by Britain only on 17th January 1947

DISPOSALS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

776. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the reasons for appointing a Committee known as "Disposals Enquiry Committee"?

(b) What was the composition of this Committee and did all the members attend the sittings of the Committee and go on tour to different provinces?

(c) What are the findings of the Committee?

(d) What is the total expense incurred up-to-date by Government on account of this Committee?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) On a consideration of the problems arising in disposals, and of complaints about disposals practice, Government decided that it would be in the interests both of the public and of the Department to appoint a Committee of persons outside the Department and commanding undoubted public confidence to make a study of the Disposals Organization and its working, and to furnish Government with their conclusions and recommendations. Government therefore constituted in October, 1946, the Disposals Enquiry Committee.

(b) The members of the Committee were Sir Maurice Gwyer and Dewan Bahadur Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya, K.B.E., Mr. S. Bhoothalingam, O.B.E., I.C.S., was appointed Secretary to the Committee. In the initial stages Sir Maurice Gwyer was unable, owing to illness, to take active part in the proceedings. From the beginning of December 1946 however he was able to associate himself fully with the work of the Committee in Delhi, although it was not possible for him to join in the tours.

(c) The Committee's Report was received on 1st March 1947 and is receiving immediate attention. The Report will be considered by the Disposals Board at a meeting on 14th March in which the Defence Department is also represented. On receiving the recommendations of the Disposals Board, Government hope to publish the Report and the decisions on the Report before the end of the month.

(d) Re. 24,748 up to the end of January, 1947.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know why no younger officers were appointed to the Committee and whether it is the policy of the Government to appoint old men over 65 years of age on these Committees who cannot attend to the work and attend the meetings?

Mr. President: Order, order

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the Disposals Board which the Honourable Member spoke of? Is it the Central Advisory Committee for advising the Disposals Department, or is it a Committee of the Cabinet? What is this Board which is going to consider this Report?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: It is not a Committee of the Cabinet. It is the existing Board going by the name 'Disposals Board'. It consists of officials of various Departments who are interested in this, and it is a Board that sits periodically over all the disposals.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Does the Honourable Member propose to put this Report before the Standing Committee of the Industries and Supplies Department? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: It has first to be placed before the Disposals Board in any case, and if the Standing Committee so desire they will also have it before them when they meet. But I do not think that we should delay disposing of the recommendations till the Standing Committee meets. But if that is the desire of the Standing Committee, it will be so done.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In what form will this House see this Report, and Members be able to contribute their judgment and their considerations on this Report, so that Government may also take those into account?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If, Sir, it is the desire of the Members of the House that their Standing Committee of the Department of Industries and Supplies should have an opportunity of seeing this, it will certainly be placed before them.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member why one of the Members of this House was not associated with this Enquiry Committee?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The entire object and the reasons for the appointment of this Committee have already been explained. It is a matter of experience and sound judgment, and youth is not necessarily a qualification, or old age a disqualification in this respect.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it not a fact that these two Members have no experience of business? Why were people with business experience not appointed to the Committee?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Business is always inter-related with jealousies and therefore in this matter I avoided businessmen.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Pending the arrival of the Report of this Committee, will the Honourable Member order the stoppage of the destruction of materials that is taking place on a large scale?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If the destruction of any material is

Prakasa: The Honourable Member may perhaps recollect that I put a question about the destruction of masses of aeroplanes at the Bamauli aerodrome, Allahabad, to his predecessor in office who is sitting next to him. May I know whether he has stopped the destruction of such valuable material that could be used for civil purposes in peace time, pending the report of this Committee? Masses of bicycles are simply being mowed down by tanks at the various places. Should not that be stopped?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If the matter had already been put in a question and the Member in charge had then answered it, I do not venture to answer it at this stage.

Shri Sri Prakasa: The Honourable Member had promised to enquire. May I know whether the enquiry has been completed and whether the present Member is in a position to answer the question?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I would like a notice of the question put down, Sir.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that the meeting of the Standing Committee can be convened at short notice, because all the Members are here, and even earlier than a meeting of the Disposals Board? Will not the Honourable Member therefore consider it proper to place the report of the Committee before it is placed before the Disposals Board?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have said that the Disposals Board is a Board that deals with such matters from time to time and it is right and proper that I should place the recommendations before them. But if prior to that, the Standing Committee of the Legislature would like to see it, i.e., even before the Disposals Board sees it, I have no objection. But as I have said, it is on the 14th of March that the Disposals Board will consider it and it is now really an academic question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether it is not fair that importance should be attached more to the Standing Committee of this House than to the Disposals Board, and may I ask whether he would consider the desirability of placing the matter first before the Standing Committee and then before the Disposals Board?

Mr. President: The question of importance is a matter of opinion.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I can put a thought to the Honourable Member. If the Standing Committee sits after the Disposals Board, the Standing Committee would be in a position to advise Government even upon the recommendations of the Disposals Board, whereas in the other case the Disposals Board would be sitting in a sort of *quasi* appeal over the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I take it that the recommendations of the Disposals Board will not be final and binding?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Certainly, Sir. The recommendations will be only in the nature of advice to Government.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Does the Honourable Member admit that bicycles have been destroyed?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have not admitted it.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Is the Honourable Member prepared to do at least one thing—I mean prevention of destruction till the disposal is sanctioned by the Disposals Board?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Possibly useful articles are not destroyed. Explosives and things like that may be destroyed. Broken down Fighter planes will have to be made into scrap. Really useful articles, as far as I am aware, cannot be destroyed and are not being destroyed.

SIR SRI RAM'S STATEMENT RE IMPENDING CLOTH FAMINE IN INDIA

†777. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) whether he is aware of Sir Sri Ram's statement about the impending cloth famine in India; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to stop the production of greater quantities of fine cloth?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b) Government agree with Sir Sri Ram that there is a tendency on the part of mills to produce relatively finer varieties of cloth at the expense of relatively coarser varieties, though they do not agree with his reported opinion that this is the main reason for the present cloth shortage. Government are investigating the possibilities of further rationalisation of production so as to concentrate it on varieties most in demand, and also of a rationalisation of prices which would remove any inducement to switch from one type of production to another to the detriment of overall output.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

PRODUCTION OF CHEAP MOTOR CARS IN INDIA.

†778. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of leading Indian motor car distributors signed an agreement with the Austin Motor Export Corporation for cars to be manufactured and assembled in India;

(b) whether Government are aware of the negotiations between Mr. Ali Ahmed of Bombay and Grauttemu Productions Limited, to produce a cheap 'Peoples car', and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to declare its intentions regarding the production of cheap cars in India with Indian capital and personnel?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) The report of the Automobiles and Tractors Panel contains the following

"It has been reported to us that the Austin Motor Car Co., has entered into an agreement with their Indian distributors for erecting a plant at one of India's main ports for the output of a minimum of 3,000 vehicles a year. It is reported that the proposed Indian company will be financed and controlled by Indians, but Austins will send out technical experts and adequate jigs and machinery to facilitate an early start. It is reported that every model in the Austin range will be assembled and progressively manufactured in the Indian plant."

(b) and (c) I have no information about any such negotiation but last year an application was received from Mr. Ali Ahmed, Bombay, for a licence to import a complete plant for setting up a factory for the manufacture of 'Kendall Cars' and Tractors in India. The exporters are Messrs Grantham (not Grauttemu) Products, Limited, England. A decision on the application of Mr. Ali Ahmed has been held up pending consideration of the report of the Automobiles and Tractors Panel. The general policy of Government in regard to the development of this industry will also be considered in the light of this report.

QUOTA OF STEEL FOR NEW INDUSTRIES

†779. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) the quota of steel allotted for the year 1947 for industries that are being expanded or newly installed under various development schemes of the Government of India,

(b) how much of this quota has already been reserved by industrialists and for which industries; and

(c) whether Government have taken steps to see that this steel is utilized only for the purpose of constructing buildings for these industries and is not held up in store for a long period?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) 50,000 tons.

(b) Due to the late introduction of the new scheme for distribution of steel for 1947, the whole allotment of 12,500 tons of steel for industrial development was not allocated for delivery in Period I. The distribution of this allotment was

	Tons
Cement	2,966
Textiles	1,240
Paper	324
Rubber	400
Boots	380
Electrical	1,612
Miscellaneous	3,298

The balance is being added to the quota for Period II, making 14,200 tons in all.

(c) All demands for steel for industrial development are scrutinised by sponsoring authorities, such as, Textile Commissioner, Electrical Commissioner, Coal Commissioner, D. G. I. & S., Sugar Controller and Iron and Steel Controller, and these authorities ensure that the minimum quantity of steel is allocated for immediate use. The sponsoring authorities see that the work for which steel has been allotted is carried out.

INCREASE OF FACILITIES FOR THIRD CLASS TRAVEL IN INDIA

†780. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the past promises made by Government to increase the facilities of third class travel on Indian Railways;

(b) whether the Standing Finance Committee for Railways which met recently, made any recommendations regarding this matter; and

(c) if not, what steps Government of India propose to take to better the conditions of third class travel and when they will be taken?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes

(b) No

(c) Government are doing everything possible to make more passenger accommodation available in order to reduce the overcrowding which at present exists. 1,075 trains have so far been restored or extended providing an additional daily mileage of 68258 and more will be added as soon as more rolling stock can be made available. Provision was made originally in the budget for the expenditure of approximately rupees one crore on amenities for passengers during the financial year 1947-48, but as Honourable Members will recollect, I gave an undertaking that we will endeavour to spend twice this sum, provided the required materials are available.

Government's post-war plans are directed towards improving the conditions of III class passenger travel. More seating space per passenger, more comfortable seats, more and better lavatory accommodation, wider doors, improved lighting and water in compartments for washing purposes are to be provided. This will be facilitated by an increase in the width of stock on the Broad Gauge to 11' 8" overall, and on the Metre Gauge to 9' overall. Details of the design of such coaches are now being worked out and it is hoped that new coaches of this improved design will begin to make their appearance sometime next year. Government have also under consideration certain long term proposals, which include the provision of sleeping accommodation for a considerable number of lower class passengers, fans in lower class compartments and more commodious waiting halls with better facilities.

ADVANCED STUDIES IN AGRICULTURE IN U. S. A. FOR INDIAN STUDENTS

†781. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the statement given by Mr. Sundaram, Government of India's Educational Officer on special duty, in England, about the advanced studies in agriculture of Indian students in U. S. A.; and

(b) if so, whether Government consider the advisability of sending students for specialised studies in Agriculture to U. S. A. as other departments of Government of India are doing?

Sr Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have already sent some 80 students to the U. S. A. for training in Agriculture (including Animal Husbandry).

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

INCREASED QUOTA OF CLOTH FOR RURAL AREAS

782. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the quota of cloth for the rural areas; if so when and how much; and

(b) whether Government propose to arrange for sufficient supply of dhooties, saris and other requisite cloth to the village people in the near future?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) The Government of India allot cloth to provinces and States in accordance with a quota system worked out for the total population, both rural and urban. It is for the provincial or State Government concerned to decide how this quota should be distributed within the areas administered by them. The Government of India have pointed out to them on various occasions the importance of taking steps to see that rural areas get their adequate share.

(b) There have been complaints, recently that the supplies of Dhooties and Saris are inadequate. The Chairman of the Textile Control Board has now issued instructions to all mills to increase their production of Dhooties and Saris so that at least 70 per cent. of the looms capable of producing Dhooties and Saris produce these against the present percentage of 60 per cent. Provincial and State allocations of cloth will therefore in future contain a higher percentage of Dhooties and Saris than at present and this should help them to see that larger supplies of these are made available to rural areas.

Mr. Vallal Lalubhar: Is it a fact that some mills were pulled up for producing more dhooties and saris?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Does 'pulled up' mean reprimanded?

Mr. Vallal Lalubhar: They were asked to produce less than they were producing.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If it was so done, I am sorry.

Mr. Vallal Lalubhar: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Yes.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the quota for each province is fixed by the consideration of the requirements of the provinces and not simply by counting heads, because the requirements of the N-W F P are different from those of South India?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The requirements of a whole province can be most equitably determined by counting heads but if the Honourable Member will give me any other method of finding out the requirements of a province more correctly, I shall have it duly considered.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Members of the Council of State have to go to the bazaar in Delhi in order to meet the requirements of dhooties and saris in their own houses, will the Honourable Member kindly consider the desirability of lifting all control and stopping this nonsense?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Probably the members referred to by the Honourable Member require very special fine cloth. The production that is required and which the Government wants to encourage is coarser cloth.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Member referred to, required only coarse cloth for his servants. Will the Honourable Member now kindly consider the desirability of lifting all controls?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If Honourable Members as a whole are fairly unanimous and want the control to be lifted, the matter will be given very sympathetic consideration.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell us, apart from merely asking Provincial Governments to be more careful in distributing to the rural

areas, whether the Government of India are considering any other measures in order that cloth of suitable quality may reach the villages and whether their attention has been drawn to the committee which has recently reported in Bombay and which has made recommendations on some of these other measures and whether the Government of India will examine them?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If the Committee has suggested a definite plan by which the rural areas could be given their adequate share effectively, it will be duly considered. But I may point out that there is very great danger in making such arrangements, because it is well known that there are people who will specially exploit the rural area and make it a black-market-commodity tapping area.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the dealers in towns who are expected to supply the stuff to the rural areas are playing so much mischief by not supplying them, will Government consider the advisability of seeing that dealers in villages are given the necessary permits and the cloth is supplied to them directly, so that there may be some better chance of this cloth being distributed among the rural people?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: It is the province of the Provincial Governments to arrange for the distribution of the quotas that are supplied to the provinces. If the suggestion of the Honourable Member to give the permits direct to the rural dealers is a sound one, it is open to the provinces to take it up as we are not dealing directly with the retail end of the transaction from the Centre.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Provincial Member aware of the fact that in Madras Food Councils are appointed in every village and these councils are entrusted with the task of distributing this cloth among the villagers with the help of the local rural dealers and the distribution as between the towns and villages is decided upon by the District Food Council?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I should like to have definite information as to what the public at the local level could be doing, just now described by my Honourable friend.

Mr. Mani Subedar: In view of the fact that yarn is now reaching only a very small fraction of the handloom weavers and that a great majority of them are idle because yarn is not reaching them and in view of the fact that handloom cloth, not being controlled, is more likely to be available to rural areas, will the Honourable Member tell this House what steps Government are taking in order to see that yarn reaches right to the fullest requirement of every handloom weaver in this country?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I am very well aware that handloom weavers are not now having enough yarn for the full capacity they can put forth. Every effort is being made to get as much yarn as possible out of the mills for distribution to the handloom weavers but the matter is beset with many difficulties, of production especially, and every effort is now being made to find out all possible ways and means by which we could increase the amount of yarn available for handloom weavers. I am particularly examining the question from this point of view and I wish to assure Honourable Members that it will have my most earnest consideration.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I inquire if his department calls for periodical reports from the Provincial Government as to the method of distribution followed?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: They do get reports.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: When was the last report received?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I am not able to say offhand.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Does the Honourable Member's department also bring to the notice of the Provincial Governments that complaints are made to his department about maldistribution or inequitable distribution in the Provinces?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Complaints are there in quite a large number. Honourable Members need not imagine that it is necessary for the Central Government to write to the Provincial Governments about it. The complaints are there in very great number and abundant enough to bring the matter to the poignant notice of the Provincial Governments.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I am referring to the complaints of chambers of commerce and industrial concerns and not of ordinary citizens. When such complaints are forwarded to the Honourable Member's department, what is the procedure adopted with regard to investigation and redress?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The complaints are generally about shortage and want of adequate distribution. The whole matter is at present under active consideration apart from shortage there is no other special complaint for investigation that is involved. The whole question turns on the question of production and every effort is made to increase that production and the several ways in which that can be done is now under very active consideration by all the people concerned.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: Will Government examine also the proposal which has been made in Bombay to requisition yarn from the mills as an absolute priority so that no handloom will be idle and the mill people may be left to adjust to their own purposes?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If the suggestion is that the mills should be compulsorily ordered to surrender the yarn and keep their own looms idle, it will have to be worked up with a little more care. It is better to have it as a voluntary arrangement. Efforts are being made to procure free yarn in the largest measure possible.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any effort has been made to reduce the number of various varieties of cloth which are about 500 so that larger quantities of yarn may be released for handlooms?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: That is one of the first things that have been taken up for consideration.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know for how long this has been under consideration and when are the handlooms likely to be benefited by it?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The number of varieties produced by the mills has no connection with the amount of yarn available for the handlooms, but the number of varieties has something very closely to do with the total yardage produced by the mills. In that way, it is connected perhaps in a distant manner with the amount of free yarn available for handlooms. The whole matter is being actively examined from this very point of view, namely, the reduction of the number of varieties that should be produced in the mills, and going from fine to coarse as far as possible, and thus releasing as much yarn as possible.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: Has the Honourable Member examined that when mills go on 60's, they produce only 1½ to 1½ ounces per day but when they get on to 20's and 14's, they produce eight ounces and more per day? Therefore, those looms of mills who fear on account of the requisition for handloom, will not be idle, but this step will compel the mills to go on coarse count. Will Government therefore give the scheme which they are now formulating close examination from this point of view?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Yes, Sir, close examination is being made of the problem of stepping down in the counts. It will perhaps not be possible to step down, from 60 to 20, but a certain amount of stepping down is possible.

FAIR PRICE FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

783. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state the steps Government have taken or propose to take to determine and enforce fair prices for agricultural produce?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: The steps in question are mentioned in the reply given to question No. 457 of Mr. Sanyal on the 21st February, 1947.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: How long will it take for the Government to reach a final decision in this matter?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: I hope that a decision will be arrived at not very long after the report of the Krishnamachari Committee is received.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why the Central Government is taking into its own hand the fixation of prices instead of leaving it to the Provincial Governments to fix the prices of paddy and rice produced in their own provinces?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: The matter was discussed at an All-India Food Conference some time ago, and the general feeling was that it would be better for the Central Government to take up the matter so as to secure a certain amount of uniformity in prices in the different provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If it is a uniformity of prices that is kept as a sort of desired end, why is it that the Government does not allow the Madras Government to raise the prices of paddy and rice to the same level at which the prices of these commodities are prevailing in most of the provinces except Orissa?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: It is the policy of the Government at present to prevent a rise in prices in order to prevent inflation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that their policy of preventing the rise in prices of foodgrains is not to maintain a fair price to the agriculturist but a fair price which may be suitable in order to prevent inflation?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: That, Sir, is a matter of opinion. In the opinion of the Government the present prices are considered to be fairly reasonable for the agriculturist.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Madras Government and the Government of India have not agreed as to what is to be treated as a fair price for paddy as well as rice?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: The matter has now been referred, or at least will shortly be referred, to the Commodities Prices Board which has been recently set up and they will go into the whole matter and determine what should be the price.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will the Honourable Member inform us whether agricultural indebtedness has increased or decreased among the paddy growers of Madras?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: I believe an inquiry was made about 18 months ago when the Gadgil Committee looked into the matter, and the opinion they came to then was that the indebtedness had decreased to a considerable extent in the first few years of the war, i.e., till 1944, but thereafter the decrease had ceased.

Sri V. Gangaraju: What is the percentage of rise on the previous prices that Government think will be reasonable in order to make the prices remunerative to the agriculturist?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: That matter will be gone into by the Commodities Prices Board.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does not the Honourable Member know that the great difference of prices of paddy that is prevailing in the United

Provinces and Madras leads to a lot of difficulties to the producers and it prevents them from growing more paddy in the southern part of the Presidency which is famine-stricken?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Government are aware of the fact that there are wide differences in prices and they hope that it will be possible to bring down the prices in the areas where the prices are too high.

SUPPLY OF CATTLE FOOD IN INDIA

784. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure sufficient supply of cattle food in the country, and

(b) the results achieved so far in this direction?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) 11,613 tons of wheat have been imported from the Argentine and a further 4,462 tons are expected. The International Emergency Food Council has also been asked for an allocation of another 40,000 tons. 7,361 tons of oats have been imported from Canada. 5,000 tons of cottonseed are being imported from Portuguese East Africa. The I.E.F.C. have been moved to allot another 125,000 tons of cottonseed for 1947-48. 100 tons of congluteneed are being imported from U.S.A. for experimental use as cattlefeed.

The export of cattlefeeds is prohibited except under licence. The export of oilseeds is also restricted and it is proposed to allow the export of only about 110,000 tons of groundnut apart from 76,000 tons of groundnut oil.

A Basic plan for the distribution of cottonseed and oilcakes from surplus to deficit areas is in operation since November last. 1,60,701 tons of cottonseed and 1,61,401 tons of oilcakes have been allotted to various deficit provinces and states, for the year ending 31st October 1947.

Other cattlefeeds such as gowara, chunis, brans, husks, etc., are being allotted from surplus to deficit areas on an *ad hoc* basis. Since August last 97,383 tons have been allotted to deficit areas.

The increased production of cereal and pulses under the Grow More Food Campaign is expected to result in increased supply of fodder and concentrates.

Schemes for rotational grazing have been sanctioned for certain areas with the object of making more fodder available.

(b) It is not feasible at the present stage to estimate the results achieved.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: What use is being made of deteriorated foodgrains? Are they destroyed or are they made use of in some way?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The best possible use is made of all foodgrains.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Is nothing destroyed?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Only if it cannot be made use of.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do you get some fodder value out of it?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Wherever fodder value is possible, it is being utilised?

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: What kind of foodgrains and in what stage of deterioration are they destroyed?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I will lay a statement on this subject on the table of the House.

Mr. Tamsuddin Khan: In view of shortage of fodder in this country, will the Government consider the advisability of stopping export of cottonseeds altogether.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I believe cottonseeds are not allowed to be exported.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are Government aware that large quantities of maize imported from Argentina are not being used in Madras owing to

recent crops of bajra and other food crops and as such maize is being allowed to rot, there is no demand for it even from northern India, nor are they taken back from Madras?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The Government are not aware of this fact. I will make enquiries.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know if imported wheat is meant for cattle? The question deals with cattle fodder.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: There is no wheat which is being imported for cattle. The article which I referred to is wheat bran.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware that there is regular fodder famine in certain parts of Madras presidency owing to failure of several food crops? Are Government aware that ryots feel great difficulty in taking steps to get fodder from other places on account of railway wagon shortage?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Government are aware that there is shortage of fodder, but I have no information about shortage of wagons for the transport of fodder from other parts. But so far as actual allocations are concerned, we try our best to arrange for transport of fodder from surplus areas to deficit areas, and if any particular shortage or lack of wagons is brought to our notice, we shall take steps to enquire into them.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: In view of shortage of oil cakes, will the Government consider the advisability of preventing export of oil seeds from India to other countries?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The export of oil seeds has been restricted very considerably and the figure which had at one time gone up to a million tons has been reduced to just over 100,000 tons.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know if Government are charging any export licensing fees and if these licences are transferable, may I know at what price they are sold to other persons?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I have got no information on that point.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Pakwal: Have the steps taken by Government resulted in any appreciable reduction in the price of cattle fodder in this country?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I do not think that the steps taken will immediately result in a reduction of price. That is bound to take some little time.

IMPROVEMENT IN MILK SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR MILK AND MILK CATTLE.

785. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Pakwal:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken or propose to take for utilising the present Goushalas in order to increase and improve the milk supply and cattle wealth of the country; and

(b) the railway transport facilities available for the transport of milch cattle, milk and milk products and cattle food?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The Honourable Member may kindly see the reply given to part (a) of starred question No 849 asked by him on the 3rd March 1947.

(b) For movement by rail cattle-food and fodder are allowed Class I priority when sponsored by Government and Class II priority in other cases. Livestock milk and milk products are given Class II priority.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any financial assistance given to goushalas in view of the fact that they serve a very useful purpose?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I gave an account of the steps taken to help goushalas in reply to a question the other day. If I remember aright, the amount of assistance is about Rs 120,000 per annum.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the earlier reply to which my Honourable friend referred, will he encourage these gaushalas to use these dry cattle for agricultural purposes? Is it not a fact that experiment has shown that dry cattle when used for agricultural purposes become milch cattle?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I do not quite understand how dry cattle can become milch cattle.

Shri Sri Prakasa: By physical exercise, dry cattle become milch cattle. In gaushalas there is no physical exercise for the cows. This experiment has been tried in the Punjab and found successful.

- NEWSPRINT QUOTA TO NEWSPAPERS AND REFUSAL OF ADDITIONAL QUOTA TO EXISTING PAPERS.

786. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the number of daily newspapers which were newly started in 1946-47 with the permission of the Government of India, their names, names of the proprietors and the Provinces to which they belong,

(b) the quantity of news-print allotted to each,

(c) the number of applications received from each Province for starting dailies which were rejected; and

(d) the reasons for granting permission to new papers while refusing additional quota to existing dailies and periodicals?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The monthly ration of any newspaper is treated as confidential and it is regretted it is not possible to divulge the information asked for.

(c) The collection of the information regarding the number of applications rejected would involve an outlay of time and labour which Government do not consider justified in present circumstances.

(d) Permission to new newspapers has been given very sparingly and on the grounds that they would propagate the viewpoint of an important political party or group whose views were not being adequately represented in the existing press or that they would serve some definitely useful purpose. The rations of the newspapers other than those which were permitted to start publication as a special case were fixed in accordance with a general scheme on the basis of their actual consumption during the basic period. In view of the difficult supply position of newsprint their applications for increase in the quota were generally refused. Additional quotas were, however, allotted in certain cases where it was felt that a real hardship was involved. It has since been decided to relax the existing control on the procurement and use of newsprint with effect from the 1st April 1947. Newspapers and magazines will then be free to build up any paid circulation. An announcement to this effect has already been made by means of a Press Note.

Statement showing the names of daily newspapers which have newly started publication on newsprint during 1946-47 after securing the permission of the Central Government.

Serial No.	Name of the Newspaper	Name of the proprietor or party,	Monthly ration allotted.	Remarks.
AJMER-MERWARA				
1	Navajyoti, Ajmer	Mr. D. P. Choudhry	0-6-1-0	Conversion from weekly to daily
2	Naya Rajasthan	Mr. Ramnarain Choudhry	0-5-0-0	New newspaper

Serial No.	Name of the Newspaper	Name of the proprietor or party	Monthly ration allotted.	Remarks
BENGAL				
1	Ittihad, Calcutta	Ittihad Printing and Publishing Co.	3-0-0-0	New newspaper.
2	Swaraj, Calcutta	Mr. Humayun Kabir	2-0-0-0	Do.
3	Usha, Calcutta	Mr. A. C. Mookerjee	1-0-0-0	Do.
BIHAR				
1	Navarashtra, Patna	Mr. Devabarta Shashtri	1-0-0-0	Do.
BOMBAY				
1	Navayug, Hubli	Mr. T. R. Naswi, M. L. A.	1-10-0-0	Revised.
2	Free India, Bombay	M/s Akil Bharat Ltd.	4-16-0-0	New newspaper
DELHI				
1	Millat, Delhi	Mr. Mohd. Jaffri	0-10-0-0	
2	Al-bela, Delhi	Mr. Mahjabin Hussam	1-10-0-0	New newspaper
3	Azad-i-Hind, Delhi	All India Muslim Majlis	1-10-0-0	Do.
4	Aljamaat, Delhi	All India Jamiat-ul-Ulema	1-0-0-0	Do.
MADRAS				
1	A new Tamil daily, Madras	Mr. K. T. M. Ahmad	3-0-0-0	
2	Deshabhimani, Calicut	Communist Party	2-0-0-0	Conversion from weekly into daily.
N. W. F. PROVINCE				
1	Abul Kalam, Peshawar	Mr. Mohd. Yunus	3-0-0-0	New newspaper
PUNJAB				
1	Azad, Lahore	Ahrar Party (Mr. Mirza Ali Azhar)	4-0-0-0	Do.
2	Ranjit, Lahore	Northern India Newspapers Ltd.	3-0-0-0	Do.
3	Pakistan Times, Lahore	Provincial Muslim League	8-0-0-0	Do.
4	Bande Matram, Lahore	Mr. Mohan Singh Sahni	3-10-0-0	Conversion from weekly into daily
5	Urdu daily log, Lahore	All India Ahrar Party (Mr. Aziz-ur-Rahman)	1-10-0-0	
6	An Urdu daily from Lahore (Jai Hind)	Mr. Virendra, M. L. A.	4-0-0-0	New newspaper

SERIAL No.	Name of the Newspaper.	Name of the proprietor or party.	Monthly ration allotted	Remarks.
		SIND		
1	Hindustan-Pakistan, Hyderabad	Provincial Muslim League	1-10-0-0	New newspaper
		UNITED PROVINCES		
1	Quami Awaz, Lucknow	U. P. Congress	6-0-0-0	Do.
2	Bharatwasi, Cawnpore	Mr. H. S. Vidyarthi	1-0-0-0	Do.
3	Prakash, Agra	Mr. M. L. Kela	0-2-0-0	Do.
		INDIAN STATES		
1	Pashan, Bangalore	M/s Hassan Mussana Nodvi and Ismail Publish.	0-8-0-0	Do.
26				

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the position of newsprint today?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: It is better today.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What percentage of previous quota is available?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I cannot give the percentage. It is very much better. Some dealers are actually getting newsprint from Russia though at a slightly higher cost.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Why is the monthly ration of any newspaper considered confidential?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: It is a question of a particular newspaper's circulation capacity being told to other people. I think it is generally considered wrong that circulation figures which are given for a particular purpose should be given greater publicity than for the purpose for which it was originally given.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell us why permission is given for newspapers to use ordinary printing paper while removing control from newsprint generally? This seriously affects the quantity available for book publishers?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Newspapers have been specifically told not to use other than newsprint. Permission is not given for printing newspapers on ordinary printing paper.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am glad to hear that, but is the Honourable Member aware that *Capital*, *Indian Finance*, and a couple of dozen other newspapers and high class weeklies are all printed in printing paper and not newsprint and that this is a depredation on ordinary printing paper the production of which has fallen last year? And why is the community being thus deprived of the very restricted supply of printing paper in favour of newspapers?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The word 'newspaper' was used in this connection by me and in the communiques with reference to daily newspapers. If the Honourable Member is referring to weekly or monthly periodicals, it would be a hardship to compel them to use newsprint. But no orders can be passed with reference to particular newspapers. If we do not allow

printing paper to be used by weeklies and monthlies and compel all of them to use newsprint only it would create a great deal of hardship.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Will the restrictions on the starting of fresh newspapers be removed or relaxed from April next?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Any person may start a daily newspaper from the 1st April 1947 if he is able to get newsprint and subscribers.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are Government satisfied that by such relaxation there will not be a scramble in the market for newspapers and some of the poorer newspapers will not be starved while the richer ones may be able to get much more than the quota?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: That was one of the considerations to be weighed in the balance, but on the whole all the people concerned were in favour of relaxation.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Was not there any dissentient voice from the smaller newspapers and the more recent newspapers?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: When I last met them the smaller newspapers were well represented and they did not raise any dissentient voice. Of course there might have been doubts in their minds but they did not press them.

Sri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member lift control from other things also in the same way?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: A question or a Resolution may be put down on that point.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that Government have complete control over the issue of newspapers because they have control over the distribution of newsprint, and without newsprint they cannot start a paper?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The control over the newsprint is retained to some extent but not with reference to particular newspapers.

OVER-STAFFED SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

787. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Honourable the Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Supplies Department is over staffed?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: No, Sir. All posts have up to now been on a temporary basis and are extended from time to time only after their necessity has been established. The strength on 1st September 1945 was Executive 2,313, clerical 41,725. On 1st January 1947, Executive 1,071, clerical 24,718. All existing sanctions expired on the 28th February, 1947, and the staff to be retained after that date is being examined in detail to ensure that only those posts which are really necessary shall be retained.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When does the Honourable Member propose to close this department?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If it is the general desire that the department should be closed it will be closed provided it is consistent with efficiency of administration.

Mr. Manu Subedar: How does the Honourable Member explain the fact that for next year the budget grant in his department is higher than for the previous year, and how does he propose to reconcile that with his statement that he is reducing both executive and clerical staff?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I said that on 1st September 1945 the strength was respectively 2,813 and 41,725 and that on 1st January 1947 it was 1,071 and 24,718. I am not quite able to see the connection between this and the budget provision; but if the Honourable Member will put down a question I will be able to look into the matter.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What is the available number of hours that each member of the staff is expected to work per day?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The working hours fixed for offices are being to be worked, and the working period may be easily calculated.

IMPROVEMENT OF OLD BENARES ROAD BETWEEN CHANDITALA AND SHEAKHALA.

788. *Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay: (a) With reference to the reply given on the 11th November, 1946 to unstarred question No. 44 regarding improvement of old Benares Road between Chanditala and Sheakhala will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state whether he has received any reply to the Government of India letters No. R-5 (46) dated the 2nd and 9th January, 1947, from the Bengal Government in connection with the petitions, dated the 18th and 26th November and 30th December, 1946 addressed to the Honourable Member by the persons living in the Hooghly District? If not, do Government propose to call for a reply in the matter?

(b) Has the attention of Government of India been drawn to the *Nationalist Calcutta*, dated the 27th December, 1946 and the *Hindustan Standard*, Calcutta dated the 29th December, 1946 publishing communications from the persons living in the Hooghly District?

(c) Are Government aware that the Chanditala-Sheakhala portion of the Old Benares Road is an important one, both for industrial and agricultural purposes, as is admitted by the Europeans and the Indians as well as Government officials, and as such, the scheme was approved and sanctioned by the Government of India in 1939 and the work of construction was taken up in 1940 and the amount of Rs 1,78,000 was spent from the Central Road Fund by the Bengal Government?

(d) If the answers to (b) and (c) are in the affirmative, do Government propose to inform the House when the work will be re-started by the Bengal Government for the improvement of the Old Benares Road between Chanditala and Sheakhala?

The Honourable Dr John Matthai: (a) No The two letters referred to did not call for a reply.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The importance of this road has been urged in the press reports mentioned in part (b) of this question and also in representations received from the inhabitants of the locality I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given in this House to his questions Nos. 48 and 44 on 27th February and 11th November 1946. I have nothing further to add.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know how this road is called the Old Benares Road and what has Benares to do with Chanditala-Sheakhala?

The Honourable Dr John Matthai: I imagine it is part of the Grand Trunk Road that passes through or near Benares. That is my impression.

SUPPLY OF UNIFORMS TO POOR PAID STAFF OF THE ENGINEERING DEPOT ON THE HOWRAH DIVISION OF E. I. RAILWAY.

789. *Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that the East Indian Railway have sanctioned uniforms to be supplied to poor paid staff of the Engineering Department?

(b) If so, are Government aware that the Howrah Divisional Authorities are not giving effect to those orders?

(c) Do Government propose to supply the said staff with the uniforms?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) On the presumption that the question refers to the supply of uniforms to such lower paid Permanent Way staff of the Engineering Department as are not entitled to them under existing orders, the reply is in the negative.

(b) The allegation is not correct.

(c) The question of supplying certain items of clothing as uniform to Permanent Way Mates, Keymen and Gangmen is now under consideration by the E. I. Railway Administration.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly see that the amount of cloth consumed in these uniforms is not more than the amount granted to the civilian population on an average?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should think it extremely unlikely that it would exceed that.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are we to take it seriously that in 11 yards of cloth a full uniform can be made?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact the uniforms in question are woollen clothing and supplied only once in four years.

ASSISTANCE TO THE BIO-CHEMICAL AND SYNTHETICAL PRODUCTS LTD., HYDERABAD (DECCAN).

790. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state the nature of the assistance, which Government have agreed to give to the Bio-chemical and Synthetic Products Ltd., Hyderabad (Deccan)?

(b) Is this company registered in British India or in Hyderabad (Deccan)?

(c) Is the dominant interest in this company Indian or non-Indian?

(d) What is the progress of this company in the matter of production?

(e) When is the supply expected to be available?

(f) At what price will this supply be made available to Provincial Governments, who wish to use it to improve the diet of the people?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) The Food Department have assured the Biochemical and Synthetic Products Ltd. that they would support their legitimate requests to other Departments and the province concerned for expediting the construction and maintaining the production of the proposed factory.

(b) The Company is registered under the Indian Companies Act (1913), with its registered Head Office at Secunderabad.

(c) Government have been informed that it is exclusively Indian.

(d) The Company has sent one of its Directors abroad for purchasing machinery and is negotiating with the U. P. Government for a suitable site and for reservation of the requisite quantity of molasses.

(e) It cannot be said when the factory will be in production, but the Company is proceeding with all possible speed.

(f) There is no commitment that the Provincial Governments will buy the product, but the Company has given an assurance that they will try to make supplies available at -/6/- per lb. which is the rate suggested by the Special Officer appointed by Government to inquire into this industry.

Mr. Mann Subedar: May I know what steps Government are taking to ensure purity of the articles produced and also to ensure that unreasonable prices would not be charged, since this is not a competitive production in India?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The company has not been given any guaranteed offtake by Government. It will therefore be in its own interest to prepare a product which conforms to the specifications of food-yeast and to prepare it at a fair price.

Mr. Mann Subedar: What sort of standard or inspection will Government impose on this company, as these articles will go into the dietary of people, to see that the yeast and various other things produced will be of suitable quality and suitable standard and not deleterious to the people?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The same check on the products will be applied as in the case of other products manufactured in this country.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Has this company asked for any financial help from the Government of India?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are they getting any financial help from the Government of Hyderabad where it has been put up, if so, what is the amount of Hyderabad State interest in this company?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I have said that the company is registered in Secunderabad. We have no information whether it has received any financial assistance from any other source.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What are the peculiar natural facilities in Secunderabad by way of raw produce, in order to start such an industry there?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The company actually proposes to start a factory in the U. P. The only facility at Secunderabad for registration is that the promoters happen to be there.

FIXATION OF FODDER PRICES.

791. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to refer to his answer to starred question No. 119 asked on 7th February 1947, regarding the fixation of fodder prices and state:

- (a) what are the schemes for importing fodder;
- (b) the kind of fodder proposed to be imported;
- (c) the source from which it will be imported,
- (d) how its cost will compare with the rates prevailing in different parts of the country for different kinds of fodder; and
- (e) the places to which Government propose to supply the imported fodder?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a), (b) and (c) Information on the three points raised is given in reply to part (a) of Question No. 784 asked by Mr. Palwal today.

(d) and (e). A statement is placed on the table.

Statement

	Import price per maund C. I. F. Bombay	Internal price per maund.	Allocations in tons from what has been received.
Wheat bran	Rs. 8/2/-	Rs. 4/4/- to 10/-/-	Sind : 6287 Bombay 3751 N.W.F.P. 1000 Delhi 500 States 75 Total. 11,613
Oats	Rs. 11/1/-	Rs. 8/10/- to 16/-/-	Bengal 5000 Bihar 1150 Sind 500 Baluchistan 40 States 671 Total 7,361
Cotton Seed.	Rs. 9/13/-	Rs. 4/12/- to 16/-/-	Bombay 5,000
Corngluten	Rs. 7/13/- plus freight and insur- ance.	...	Bombay 100

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: May I know what subsidy Government are paying to equalise prices as between imported and indigenous products?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I believe a certain amount of subsidy is given to provincial Governments for such distribution. I have not got the figures with me.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

FOOD FACTORIES STARTED DURING THE WAR.

792. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and varieties of food factories started during the war,
- (b) how many have stopped working now;
- (c) what are the factories the Provincial Governments intend acquiring;
- (d) where these factories are situated;
- (e) what help Government are giving to factories which are catering to the needs of the civil market;
- (f) to what extent the food requirements of the Army are met by these factories as compared with the imported food stuffs; and
- (g) how Government propose to dispose of the rest of the factories which are not working now?

Mr. K. L. Panjabl: (a) During the War, Government maintained 21 installations and obtained supplies from 515 private factories, the majority of which were started during the War. Details of these factories are given in the statement laid on the table of the House.

(b) Only two installations are now maintained by Government and supplies are obtained from 46 private factories. The number of private factories which have stopped working is not known.

(c) and (d). Provincial Governments have already taken over the Cheese Factory at Anand and the Fruit Processing Factory at Peshawar. The N.W.F.P. Government have offered to take over the Fruit Canning Factory at Nasarpur.

(e) Government have made available to the extent possible controlled materials required by these factories and have appointed five planning panels to recommend plans for development of food products manufactured in these factories.

(f) Lists of items supplied by Indian factories and those imported from abroad are placed on the table of the House. It has now been decided that imported items should in future be procured in India to the extent these items satisfy the prescribed specifications.

(g) Surplus factories have been reported to the Director General, Disposals, who is responsible for the disposal of surplus Government installations.

	Government installations utilised during war (1)	In production at present (2)	Stopped production (3)
Meat Dehydration Factories	9	Nil	9
Dehydrated Onions & Potatoes	3	Nil	3
Fruits Dried	1	Nil	1
Fruits Tinned	1	Nil	1
Cheese Factory	1	Nil	1
Ghee (Milk) (Blending Factory)	6	2	4
Total	21	2	19

Section 'B'—List of non-Government Factories.

Foodstuffs	Total number of factories utilised during war	Number of factories supplying Government at present
1. Amlo Sweet	1	Nil
2. Ascorbio Acid Tablets	1	"
3. Baking Powder	4	"
4. Barley Paarl	3	"
5. Beer and Rum	9	"
6. Biscuits Shokapari	12	"
7. Butter Tinned	2	"
8. Chutney and Pickles	26	"
9. Cigars	3	"
10. Cigarettes and Tobacco	17	1
11. Cinnamon Powder	1	Nil
12. Coffee Ground	10	"
13. Condiment Powder, Curry Powder, Mustard and Pepper Ground Refined.	72	3
14. Corn Flour	4	3
15. Custard Powder	1	Nil
16. Egg Powder	2	"
17. Essence of Chicken, Lemon, Vanilla, etc.	5	"
18. Fish Dried and Smoked	3	"
19. Fruits Tinned	2	"
20. Gelatine	1	"
21. Golden Syrup	4	"
22. Honey	1	"
23. Jams and Marmalade	12	"
24. Jellies Assorted	1	"
25. Lime, Lemon Juice and Cordials	10	"
26. Margarine	1	1
27. Margalide	6	Nil
28. Malt	3	Nil
29. Oatmeal	1	Nil
30. Oil cake	49	5
31. Oil Cooking Refined (Groundnut and Salad Oils)	13	Nil

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Foodstuffs	Total number of factories utilised during war	Number of factories supplying Government at present
32. Onions, Potatoes and Vegetables Dehydrated .	83	Nil
33. Rennet Powder/Tablets	2	1
34. Sago	1	Nil
35. Salt Refined	16	5
36. Sauces T. Ido ^a	7	Nil
37. Sugar	14	14
38. Tomato Tinned	7	Nil
39. Vinegar	22	16
40. Vinegar	1	Nil
41. Yeast Extract	2	Nil
Total	155	46

Pepper Ground-Refined,

11c
Powder, Beans Canned, Beef Pies, Mutton Pies, M & V, Variety Meats, Luncheon Meat, Biscuits fancy, Biscuits Service, Cheese Tinned, Chocolate Vit, Cocoa Powder, Cornflour, Herrings Tinned, Salmon Tinned, Fruit dried, Fruit Tinned Jam, Marmalade, Golden Syrup, Honey, Margarine, Milk Powder, Skim, Mustard, Oatmeal, Onions Dehyd Pickles, Potatoes Tinned, Potatoes Dehydrated, Sausages Tinned, Veg. Tinned Veg. Dehydrated Yeast Dessicated, Arrowroot Bengals Food, Gelatine or Jelly Crystals, Malted Milk, Meat Extract Ovaline, Vinegar Lime Juice Cordial, Campagne, Compound Vit. Tabs

SCARCITY OF IRON PIPES, SHEETS, FENCING WIRE, ETC., FOR FARM USE

793. *Sri V. O. Vellingiri Gounder: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the difficulty experienced by the agriculturists on account of the scarcity of iron pipes, sheets, fencing wires, etc., for farm use?

(b) Do Government propose to allot more of such things to the Provinces?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of ear marking such allotments separately for agricultural purposes and supplying them through the Provincial Agricultural Departments?

Sir Pharoze Kharegat: (a) Yes

(b) and (c). Government have allotted 200,000 tons of steel to Provincial Governments to meet the requirements of small consumers and for private building. Provincial Governments are being asked to make suitable allotments from this amount for agricultural purposes. This steel is made over by the Controller to licensed dealers in such categories as may be desired by Provincial Governments and the latter will then arrange for the further distribution of this steel for agricultural purposes either through retail dealers or through their Agriculture

Departments. In addition quotas have been given for steel processing industries which manufacture implements and machinery, including those required for agricultural purposes. It is not considered feasible at the present stage to increase the Provincial allotments as other essential requirements have also to be met.

DELAY IN PAYMENTS OF DUES TO DISCHARGED STAFF OF THE CALCUTTA BRANCH OF TIMBER DIRECTORATE.

794. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state.

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article under the heading "Round the Metropolis" and sub heading "Efficiency" in the Evening News of the *Hindustan Times*, dated 4th February, 1947, relating to the delay in the payment of dues of many of the staff who were discharged from service as a result of the abolition of the Calcutta branch of the Timber Directorate at the end of 1945,

(b) if the facts stated therein are true, the reasons for the delay in payment and the persons who are responsible for such delay, and

(c) whether any steps are being taken to expedite payment and whether any action is being taken against those responsible for the delay?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to the article in question. The fact is that while claims relating to pay, bonus and gratuity of the retrenched employees in question were settled claims relating to the payment of increased Dearness Allowance sanctioned at a later date with retrospective effect were not settled. The delay is unfortunate, and is regretted. Dearness Allowance with retrospective effect from the 1st July 1944 was sanctioned by the Government of India on the 22nd March 1946 only. The preparation of bills for this claim could not be taken up before August 1946 due to abnormal rush of work owing to amalgamation of the various regional wings (D G M P, C C P M, etc) with the D G I. & S. This bill was unfortunately returned by the C S A, Calcutta, on the 22nd November 1946 with some audit objections, and for recasting. It has subsequently been resubmitted to the C S A, Calcutta, early in February 1947.

(c) Yes, Sir. Steps have been taken to expedite payments. The officers who were looking after this work have already left our Department or are dead and at this stage, it is not considered worth while to pursue this matter further.

QUALIFICATION FOR THE POST OF CHIEF MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICERS ON RAILWAYS

795. *Seth Sukhdev: With reference to the reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 113 asked on 31st October, 1946, regarding the qualifications for the post of Chief Medical and Health Officer on Railways, will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a general rule on the Railways that new conditions be relaxed in favour of employees who joined service prior to the date of the orders prescribing such conditions, if not, why a special exemption was made in favour of Medical Officers,

(b) if the reply to the first portion of part (a) be in the affirmative whether Government propose to apply such exemption in the case of employees of the North Western Railway, who under a recent order are required to pass the First Aid examination as a condition for getting increments and promotion;

(c) the budgetted amount of expenses during the year 1946-47, for (i) sanitation, and (ii) medical relief on the North Western Railway;

(d) whether it is a fact that sanitation has recently been transferred to the medical department on the North Western Railway; and

(e) whether Government propose to create a post of Deputy Chief Medical Officer, for Sanitation and Public Health work on the North Western Railway; if not, what other steps are proposed to be taken to ensure proper sanitation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) It is the general practice when new conditions are introduced not to apply them in such a way as to cause hardship to persons already in service. Each case is, however, dealt with on its merits.

(b) No. It has been made obligatory for staff of certain categories to pass in first aid in the interests of the welfare of the travelling public. It has, therefore, been found necessary to make the grant of increments and promotion to all such staff irrespective of the date of appointment, dependent on the passing of an examination in first aid.

(c) The budgetted amount of expenditure during the year 1946-47 is as under —

	Rs.
(i) Sanitation	15,85,000
(ii) Medical relief	12,51,000

(d) The control of sanitation of the larger colonies and larger stations has been transferred to the Medical Branch.

(e) No. The Chief Medical Officer has sufficient theoretical and practical training and experience to look after the sanitation of the railway. The latter portion of the question does not arise.

ABOLITION OF THE METHOD OF SELECTION IN N. W. RAILWAY FOR POSTS IN A SALARY OF RS. 400 OR MORE

796. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article under the heading "Competitive Examination only Test for merit" appearing in the *Railway Herald*, Karachi, dated the 6th January 1947 regarding the method of selections to higher grades based on confidential reports on the North Western Railway,

(b) whether Government propose to dispense with the system of maintaining confidential reports for staff; if not, why not; and

(c) whether Government propose to abolish selections for posts carrying a salary of Rs. 400 or over, if not, what improvements are proposed to be made in the matter of selections?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government have seen the article referred to.

(b) No. Very definite instructions regarding the preparation of confidential reports have been prescribed by Government and these emphasise the responsibility of reporting officers in exercising care and judgment when reporting on persons under them. In this connection, attention is invited to rules 1615 and 1619 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I. As confidential reports form the basis of assessing the work, ability, conduct and fitness for advancement of both gazetted and non-gazetted railway servants, Government do not propose to do away with them.

(c) No. Government have no reason to believe that there is any lack of confidence among staff regarding selections for promotion and accordingly do not consider that any change in the present system is called for.

RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION OF STAFF ON N. W. RAILWAY

797. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the proceedings of the Hindu and Sikh Railwaymen's Federation meeting held at Lahore on 25th December 1946?

(b) What policy do Government propose to pursue in view of the complaints in Resolution Nos. 1 and 2 regarding the methods of recruitment and promotion of staff in the North Western Railway on a communal basis?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) As regards the first Resolution, I would refer the Honourable Member to paras. 5(b) and 6 of the Memorandum of Supplementary Instructions issued in connection with the Government of India, Home Department Resolution No. F 14/17-13/33-Ests., dated the 4th July 1934, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Para. 5(b) referred to prescribes the minimum percentage fixed for the recruitment of Muslims on the N. W. Railway. In regard to the second Resolution, the rules for the constitution of Selection Boards are designed with the object of giving persons of all communities a fair deal and Government do not consider that Selection Boards on the N. W. Railway act contrary to this policy. Government do not consider the complaints made in the latter part of each of the Resolutions mentioned justified and do not, therefore, feel that a change in the existing rules and procedure is called for.

LATE RUNNING OF TRAINS ON E. I. AND O. T. RAILWAYS

798. *Mr. Madandhan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the trains on the East Indian and the Oudh and Tirhut Railways run late?

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to see that these trains run in time?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Some of the trains on the East Indian Railway and O. T. Railway have been running late.

(b) The chief causes of unpunctuality are, heavy loads of trains, poor quality of coal, engineering restrictions, frequent misuse of alarm chains, delays at stations to accommodate heavy passenger traffic and occasional civil disturbances.

(c) The running of passenger trains is closely and regularly scrutinised by officers of the Transportation Departments and disciplinary action is taken against staff responsible for avoidable delays.

Railway Administrations are doing everything in their power to ensure punctual running of trains and the latest reports from the E. I. and O. T. Railways show that some improvement in punctuality has been made.

PROFIT TO DELHI RATIONING DEPARTMENT IN HANDLING WHEAT AND RICE

799. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Delhi Rationing Department have made a profit in handling wheat and rice for consumption in the city?

(b) If so, what is the amount of profit?

(c) Why was this profit made?

(d) How do Government propose to utilize the amount?

Mr. K. L. Panjab: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to starred question No. 557 by Shri D. P. Karmarkar on the 25th February, 1947.

LIFTING OF CONTROLS ON GROUNDNUT OIL AND CAKE, SUNHEMP SEEDS, COCONUT, ETC

800. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the controls over the supplies, movements and prices of groundnut, groundnut-oil and cake, sunhemp seeds, coconut, coconut-oil and cake have been instituted in Madras on the advice of the Government of India;

(b) whether Government are aware that the prices of all these articles have gone up by nearly 25 per cent. after the controls were instituted and that most of the semi-manufactured items of these controlled goods have gone out of the market;

(c) whether Government are aware that while the price of groundnut is fixed at Rs. 11 per bag, that of groundnut cake is fixed at Rs. 7-8-0 per bag; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of lifting these controls in view of their defects?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) Control over the movement and prices of groundnut, groundnut oil and coconut oil was introduced by the Government of Madras on the advice of the Central Government, following the resolutions passed at the Conferences of representatives of the Provincial Governments and the States concerned. Control over groundnut cake, coconut and coconut cake and sun-hemp was instituted by the Government of Madras without reference to the Central Government.

(b) Complaints of rising prices were received in regard to edible oils and groundnut kernel. Only coconut oil was reported to be not available in the free market.

(c) Ex-mill prices of groundnut cake ranged between Rs. 6-1-0 to Rs. 7-7-0 per bag of 160 lbs. as against Rs. 16-8-0 per bag of unshelled groundnut.

(d) The Government of India have re-examined the whole question and have announced their decision to decontrol entirely all edible oil-seeds and oils except copra and coconut oil. Oil cakes are being controlled by the Provincial Governments.

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN ONGOLE AND CUMBHUM *via* ADDANKI AND DARISI.

801. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware that there was a scheme for constructing a Railway line between Ongole (in Guntur District) and Cumbhum (in Kurnool District) *via* Addanki and Darisi,

(b) whether Government are aware that this hinter-land, which produces tobacco, groundnut and paddy crops and which is also liable to famines at frequent intervals is badly in need of such a railway both for developing its resources and also as a famine-insurance measure; and

(c) whether Government propose to investigate this scheme again?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No, Sir. There has been no proposal for constructing a railway line from Ongole (in Guntur District) to Cumbhum (in Kurnool District) *via* Addanki and Darisi, nor is such a project in view at the present time.

(b) Government have no information in this regard but the area mentioned by the Honourable Member is served by a Broad Gauge line on the east and a Metre Gauge line on the west separated by about 60 miles and *prima facie* it seems that the area could be developed adequately by road transport.

(c) Construction of this line was not mooted by the Provincial Government at the general meeting with the Railway Board in November 1944 when considering the question of post-war railway development in the province of Madras. As there has been a change in Government since then, the Madras Government were addressed recently asking whether they would like to add to or amend in any way the list of approved projects framed as a result of the previous meeting in November 1944. A reply to this communication is still awaited and if as a result of this reference, the Provincial Government recommended the investigation of this project, Government would no doubt consider the question favourably.

NON-ISSUE OF RAILWAY TICKETS FROM RAIPUR STATION

*** 802. *Mr. G. B. Dani:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that railway tickets were not issued for many stations from Raipur Railway Station during the month of December, 1946?

(b) Are Government aware that one receipt for four or more passengers was issued instead of one ticket or one receipt for each passenger?

(c) Are Government aware that passengers had to search for companions bound for the same destinations and at times had to suffer loss when they could not find such companions, and obtain receipts or tickets for their destinations?

(d) What is the reason for the shortage of tickets and receipts?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No Government are informed that passengers from Rurpur station have not been refused railway tickets, although on occasions, printed card tickets have not been available for certain destinations and paper tickets have been issued instead.

(b) Yes. In some instances, paper tickets have been issued to groups of passengers.

(c) Paper tickets have been issued to individual passengers as well as to groups; but it is possible that the issue of tickets to groups caused inconvenience to certain members of the travelling public.

(d) The shortage of printed tickets on the B. N. Railway has been due to (i) enhanced demand in consequence of the heavy increase in passenger traffic, and (ii) dislocation in the B. N. Railway Printing Press following communal disturbances in Calcutta. Happily the position has now improved and sufficient stocks of printed tickets are available at all stations on the B. N. Railway, including Raipur.

GRANT FOR IMPROVEMENT AND PRODUCTION OF BETEL-NUTS

803. *Sri A. K. Menon: With reference to the reply to part (a) of my starred question No. 405, asked on 11th November, 1946, regarding the grant for improvement and production of betel-nuts, will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the grant of 5 lakhs referred to therein as being proposed to be made for the purpose of financing measures designed to improve the production and marketing of betel-nuts has been made for the year 1946-47; if not, when it is going to be made, and

(b) whether the scheme for the improvement of production and the organisation of betel-nut marketing has been drawn up by Government; if so, whether Government propose to place it on the table of the House and if it is not yet ready, when it is likely to be ready?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) A grant to the I.C.A.R. of Rs. 5 lakhs for 1946-47 has been sanctioned from which it will finance the necessary measures.

(b) Government have received various proposals which are being examined in detail. It is hoped that a suitable final scheme will be evolved in a month or two.

MALABAR ARECANUT GROWER'S ASSOCIATION.

804. *Sri A. K. Menon: (a) With reference to the reply given to part (c) of my Starred Question No. 405 asked on 11th November, 1946, regarding the grant for improvement and production of betel-nuts, will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have made enquiries of the Madras Government regarding the working of the Malabar Arecanut Grower's Association?

(b) If the result of the enquiry is satisfactory, have Government rendered the Association any aid?

(c) If the report is not satisfactory, in what respect is its working unsatisfactory?

(d) Have Government received representations for help from the above Association and did Government promise help to them? If help was promised, why was it not given?

(e) Are Government aware that the scope of the Association was developed in anticipation of the aid promised by the Government of India?

(f) Do Government propose to help them now?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a), (b) and (c) A reference was made to the Madras Government in November last. Their reply is awaited

(d), (e) and (f) A representation has been received. There is no record of any promise but the question of giving a grant will be examined on receipt of the reply of the Madras Government.

GOVERNMENT POLICY re POSTAL EMPLOYEES SENT TO MALAYA AS COMBATANTS IN 1941

805. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that postal and Railway Mail Service employees of different grades such as, Inspectors, Clerks, Postmen got enrolled as combatants during the last war, that they were sent to Malaya in June 1941, and that when the British forces surrendered to the Japanese in February 1942, the entire postal unit became prisoners of war;

(b) whether Government are aware that when Burma and Malaya were recovered about one hundred persons of the said postal unit who had joined the Indian National Army in the meantime were also recovered;

(c) whether Government are aware that these men after discharge from the Army service were directed to report themselves to their respective departmental superintendents, and were furnished with travelling facilities for proceeding to their original civil appointment stations;

(d) whether Government are aware that after these men reported themselves as directed, they have been kept on leave on half pay when leave on half pay is due, or on a subsistence allowance, when no such leave is due, and that they are neither being asked to join, nor are they receiving their dues or any amenities; and

(e) if so, what Government propose to do in the case of these men and what is their policy in the matter?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: (a) Yes

(b) and (c) The facts as stated by the Honourable Member are substantially correct

(d) The employees in question have been kept on leave due, or, when no leave was due to them, under suspension pending enquiry and the issue of final orders as a result of the review of the whole position.

(e) The policy of Government in regard to the employees of the Civil Government who collaborated with the enemy during the war and were subsequently recovered was recently reviewed and it has been decided that there shall be no ban on the re-employment of such persons except such of them as were guilty of acts of brutality, and this applies to the persons about whom the Honourable Member is enquiring

GRADUATES AS 'B' GRADE GUARDS ON E. I. RAILWAYS, DURING WAR PERIOD

806. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state how many young graduates were appointed as 'B' grade Guards on the East Indian Railway during the period of War?

(b) Are Government aware that their salaries range from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 p.m.?

(c) Are Government aware that recently the East Indian Railway Administration advertised vacancies in the posts of 'A' grade Guards and Transportation Apprentices calling for applications from graduates only and that

the 'B' grade graduate-Guards who have been working for the last 5 to 7 years are shown no consideration?

(d) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of promoting as many 'B' grade Graduate-Guards to the posts of 'A' grade Guards and Transportation Apprentices as are duly qualified instead of appointing new men?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

(b) The employees concerned draw pay in the scale of Rs 40—42—3—45—5—60 plus mileage and dearness allowances and interim relief.

(c) As regards the first portion, Government are informed that the E. I. Railway Administration advertised a certain number of posts of Grade "A" Guards, to be filled by persons holding a degree, under the general scheme of reserving 20 per cent. of the vacancies in each year for direct recruitment to the intermediate grades. A degree has also been specified in the case of recruits for the posts of Transportation Apprentices. In regard to the latter portion, Government understand that Graduate grade 'B' guards working against temporary vacancies and other temporary graduate employees are allowed to compete with outsiders for posts of "A" grade guards provided they possess the necessary qualifications and are below the age of 28 years. Grade "B" guards are also eligible for promotion as Grade "A" Guards in their turn against 60 per cent. of the vacancies occurring in the year. For posts of Transportation Apprentices all graduate "B" grade Guards and other Graduate employees are allowed to compete if they are between the ages of 18 and 25 and are recommended by the Divisional Superintendents or Heads of Departments.

(d) Government consider that the existing provision for the absorption of Graduate Guards, in "B" grade, in higher posts is adequate and do not propose either to make any change in the system of recruiting persons direct to intermediate grades, or to give graduate grade "B" guards preference in the matter of appointment as Transportation Apprentices.

EXPORT TO ENGLAND OF INDIAN IRON AND STEEL AND MATERIALS

807. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Iron and Steel or materials made out of them, are being exported to England, and

(b) if so, why and in what quantities?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: With your permission, Sir, I shall reply to both parts of the question together.

No export of Indian Iron and Steel to U K is being licensed

As regards manufactured articles of non and steel, there was no control on their export up to the 8th February, 1947. No information is, therefore, available of any such exports before that date. There have been no exports since the date referred to above.

RESERVATION OF UPPER CLASS BERTHS ON E. I. RAILWAY FOR MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

808. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swaroop: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that black-marketing is prevalent in reservation of upper class berths in the East Indian Railway and that even the Honourable Members of this House are refused

reservation on ground of 'no vacancy' while berths are reserved for those who pay extra money for reservation?

(b) What steps, if any, Government propose to take to provide necessary facilities for travelling to the Members of this House and the public in general?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No, Sir. If the Honourable Member will assist by quoting specific cases, I will certainly have the matter investigated in detail.

(b) Principal Railway Administrations have been instructed to extend so far as Honourable Members of the Central Legislature are concerned, the period in advance of the actual date of travel within which tickets may be purchased, and also afford to Honourable Members all reasonable assistance in securing reservations for journeys to and from Delhi in connection with the sessions of the Legislature. I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Railway Board's circular letter No. 3058-TT of the 21st December 1945 addressed to all Members of the Council of State and of the House. The public in general can make reservations by purchasing tickets ten days in advance. Station masters are required on request to intimate by telegram to junctions and stations *en route* particulars of onward accommodation required by passengers in connecting trains.

REVENUE FROM SALE OF POSTCARDS SINCE REDUCTION IN POSTCARD RATES

809. *Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state

(a) the total number of post-cards sold since the reduction in post-card rates and the number of cards sold during the corresponding period in the preceding year; and

(b) the effect on the revenues on account of the reduction in the post-card rates?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: (a) Statistics of postcards actually sold are not maintained.

(b) The loss on account of the reduction of the postcard rate during nine months of the current year is estimated at Rs. 94 lakhs.

RESTORATION OF THROUGH TRAINS BETWEEN PATNA AND RANCHI

810. *Mr. Habibur Rahman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) whether Government are aware that there used to be a through train between Patna and Ranchi in the pre-war days and that this train was later on withdrawn because of the wartime difficulties, and

(b) if so, whether Government now propose to consider the desirability of restoring the above-mentioned train?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The restoration of the Patna-Ranchi through train has been accorded a high priority by the Railway Administration and this train will be reintroduced as soon as the necessary coaching stock becomes available.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO THE *SENTINEL* OF RANCHI FOR CONVERSION INTO "DAILY" OR "BI-WEEKLY" OR "TRI-WEEKLY"

811. *Mr. Habibur Rahman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the weekly newspaper the *Sentinel*, published from Ranchi, applied for permission for conversion into a daily or tri-weekly or bi-weekly, if so, when and how many times did it apply?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have been declining to grant permission on the ground that they had no newsprint to spare?

(c) Have Government granted permission for the publication of new dailies and periodicals in Bihar and other Provinces during the last two years; if so, what are those papers?

(d) If the answers to questions (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, on what grounds have Government been refusing permission to the *Sentinel*?

(e) What reply was given by Government to the last representation from the *Sentinel* for permission to convert the paper into a bi-weekly and for the allotment of the necessary newsprint quota?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) The first request of the *Sentinel* for conversion into a daily or bi-weekly or tri-weekly was received through the Provincial Government in January 1946 and was followed by two similar requests in March 1946 and January 1947 respectively.

(b) Answer is in the affirmative

(c) Yes. A list is placed on the table of the House

(d) Permission to new newspapers has been given very sparingly and on the grounds that they would propagate the viewpoint of an important political party whose views were unrepresented in the existing press or that they would serve some definite useful purpose. The case of the *Sentinel* was different from such newspapers.

(e) The reply given to the last representation of the newspaper on the 5th February 1947 was to the effect that the supply position of newsprint continued to be difficult and the Government of India regretted their inability to accede to the request. The journal can convert itself to a bi-weekly from the 1st April 1947 without any permission from Government.

*Statement showing Province-wise the names of the newspapers
start publication during 1945-46*

Ajmer Merwa &

1946—(1) Navajyoti,

Assam

1945—1. Shillong Tin

Bengal.

1945.—(1) Dacca Mail, daily (English), Dacca. (2) Millat, weekly, Calcutta. (3) Chinese Government Gazette, and Chun Wah Young, Calcutta. (4) Swadhinata, Calcutta. (5) Calcutta Edition of the Globe. (6) A newspaper to be published by India China Division Air Transport Command, Calcutta

1946—(1) Itihad, Calcutta. (2) Swaraj, Calcutta. (3) Usha, Calcutta

Bihar

1945—(1) New Life, weekly, Patna. (2) Parijat, Bankipore.

1946—(1) Navarashtra, Patna.

Bombay.

1945—(1) A monthly Bulletin started by the Marathi Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Poona. (2) Indians Women's Magazine, monthly, Bombay. (3) Hindu Sanghathan, weekly, Bombay. (4) A weekly, the Bharati in Gujarati to be started by M/s Anand Mudralaya, Ahmedabad. (5) A weekly in Concanim, Bombay. (6) Dalit Bharat, fortnightly, Asoda. (7) Bombay Labour Bulletin, Bombay. (8) Al Hafiz, monthly, Dhulia. (9) Challenge, Bombay. (10) One Nation, weekly and the Indian Market, Bombay. (11) Akash Vani, Bombay. (12) Bombay Edition of the Globe. (13) Belaka, Dharwai (Bombay). (14) Torch, Bombay.

1946—1. Ambassador, Bombay. (2) Navajug, Habli. (3) Free India, Bombay.

Central Provinces.

1945—(1) *Wikas*, weekly, Nagpur (2) *Jai Hind*, daily, Jabulpore.

Delhi.

1945.—(1) *Aditi*, quarterly, Delhi. (2) *Indians Overseas*, Delhi (3) *Bang-i-Dara* (Urdu) and *Clarion* (English), Delhi. (4) *Registered Accountant*, monthly, Delhi. (5) *Rural People's weekly*, Delhi. (6) *Daur e-Jadid*, fortnightly, Delhi. (7) *Bharat*, weekly, Delhi. (8) *Anwar-i-Sahar*, Delhi.

1946.—(1) *Millat*, Delhi. (2) *News Chronicle*, New Delhi. (3) *Al-Balal*, Delhi (4) *Azad-i-Hind*, Delhi (5) *Aljamat*, Delhi (6) *An English daily* from Delhi by Dr. Syed Hussain. (7) *Dastur*, Delhi (8) *Greater India*, New Delhi

Madras

1945—(1) *Janmabhoomi*, daily, Bezwada (2) *Morning Star*, daily, Madras. (3) *English daily* to be started by Mr. Thirumala Row from Bezwada (4) *Registered Accountant*, monthly, Madras (5) *Bala*, monthly, Madras (6) *South Indian Journal of Economics*, Guntur (7) *Jai Bheem*, Ramchandrapura. (8) *Church Messenger*, Cudaloe (9) *A weekly journal in Telugu and English* from Madras to be started by the Rayalaseema Mahasabha. (10) *A Telugu weekly*, to be started by N V Seshais, Madras (11) *Pado Oolagam*, Kumbakonam

oda (2) *A new English daily*, Madras (3) *Vinodhanam*,
4) *Deshabhimani*, Calicut

North-Western Frontier Province

1945—(1) *Dusra Sarha*
Khan (3) *Kurram Maga*
Peshawar

1946—(1) *Abul Kalam*, Peshawar

Punjab

1945—(1) *Monthly News*, Simla (2) *Tijarat Mukhbar* quarterly, Qadian (3) *Sant Sepahi*, monthly, Amritsar

1946.—(1) *Azad*, Lahore (2) *New India*, Lahore (3) *Pakistan Times*, Lahore (4) *Hanjit*, Lahore. (5) *Bande Matram*, Lahore. (6) *Siyasat*, Lahore (7) *Urdu daily log*, Lahore. (8) *Shamsheri Hind*, Lahore (9) *A daily in English* from Lahore and an Urdu daily from Lahore

Orissa

1945—(1) *Nation English daily*, Cuttack

Sind

1945.—(1) *Sind Times*, Karachi

1946.—(1) *Hilale Pakistan*, Hyderabad

United Provinces.

1945.—(1) *An Urdu monthly journal* to be started by the Hindustan Cultural Society, Allahabad. (2) *Lehar* monthly in Hindi from Allahabad. (3) *Sanmarg* daily, Benares. (4) *Tanvir* daily, Lucknow. (5) *Yug Vani*, Etah. (6) *Garhwal Samachar*, Garhwal.

1946.—(1) *Telegraph*, Cawnpore. (2) *Qanmi Awaz*, Lucknow. (3) *Bharatvarah*, Cawnpore. (4) *Congress Patra*, Meerut (5) *Prakash*, Agra

1945.—(1) *English and Hindi monthly* proposed to be started from Belaspur. (2) *Pashar*, Bangalore, Mysore State.

1946.—(1) *Paaban*, Bangalore.

DIRECT ALLOTMENT OF QUOTA TO ASSAM GOVERNMENT OF CORRUGATED IRON SHEETS, BRASS SHEETS, CYCLES, TOOLS, ETC.

812. *Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether any quota of corrugated iron sheets, brass sheets, cycles, accessories and tools, umbrellas and materials for the manufacture of umbrellas, have been allotted direct to the Government

of Assam, for the year 1947 or do Government propose to make the supplies through the merchants of Calcutta?

(b) If the answer to the latter portion of part (a) in respect of any of the articles be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) The position is as follows:—

Galvanised Corrugated Sheets—Assam has been allotted a quota of 1080 tons for the first half of 1947. This allotment will be supplied to Registered Stockists in Assam nominated by the Provincial Government by either Calcutta or Chittagong Member of the Bengal Galvanised Sheet Merchants' Association

Brass Sheets—No quota has been allotted direct to the Government of Assam for the year 1947. It is, however, proposed to place the quota intended for the Provinces at the disposal of the respective Provincial Governments. The actual quantity of release will depend on the total quantity available from imports and indigenous production

Cycles, their accessories and tools and umbrella ribs—The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the first part of para. (a)(i) and (ii) of the reply given to his starred question No. 402 answered on the 11th November, 1946

Umbrella Cloth—Arrangements have been made for the supply of 1,05,000 yards to Assam through that Government's nominees at Bombay. 55,610·5 yards have already been supplied

(b) In so far as corrugated iron sheets are concerned, the procedure followed is the normal channel of distribution and is in accordance with the Producers' prewar arrangements of distributing all galvanised sheets for Eastern India exclusively through this Association

In so far as other articles are concerned, the question does not arise

EXPORT OF PADDY AND RICE FROM ASSAM

813. *Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state how much rice and paddy were exported in the years 1945 and 1946 from the Province of Assam and to what Provinces?

(b) What was the price charged per maund?

(c) What is the control price of rice and paddy in Assam?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of Assam recommended, that in the interests of the peasants of the Province, the control price of paddy should be raised and that the Government of India did not accept the recommendation?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) to (c). A statement containing the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

STATEMENT
 (a) and (b) The quantities of rice and paddy exported from Assam during 1945-46 and the price charged per maund

Recipient Area	1945			1946		
	Quantity supplied	Prices charged per maund		Quantity supplied	Price charged per maund	
		Naked grain	Incidental charges		Naked grain	Incidental charges
Bihar	4,798 tons	Rs. a. p. 12 3 0	Rs. a. p. 1 1 6	11,971 tons	Aman paddy . 5 4 0	Rs. a. p. 0 14 0
U. P.	4,909 "	" . 12 3 0	1 1 6	...	....	..
Bengal	4,457 "	" . 12 3 0	1 1 6	8,700 tons	Aman rice . 11 2 0	1 4 0
					Aus rice . 9 4 0	1 2 0
					Aus paddy . 5 4 0	1 0 0
Bombay . . . . .	...	...		11,586 tons	Aman rice . 11 2 0	1 2 0
					Aman paddy . 6 8 0	0 15 0
					Aus rice . 8 3 0	0 15 0
					Aus paddy . 4 9 0	0 13 0
Madras . . . . .	...			25,010 tons	Aman rice . 11 2 0	1 2 0
					Aus paddy . 5 4 0	0 14 0
					Aus rice . 9 4 0	1 0 0
Mysore . . . . .	...			10,885 tons	Aman rice . 11 2 0	1 2 0
					Aman paddy . 6 8 0	0 15 0
Defence Services	52,662 tons	Aman rice . 12 8 0	1 3 0	10,873 tons	Aman rice . 11 2 0	1 2 0

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	Rice	Paddy
	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
(i) For all varieties other than Aus and Boro—		
For sale by producers	11 10 0 to 12 6 0	6 0 0 to 6 7 0
For sale by wholesalers	12 0 0 to 12 0 0	6 5 0 to 6 14 0
(ii) Aus and Boro—		
For sale by producers	9 0 0	4 8 0
For sale by wholesalers	9 6 0	4 11 0

CONSTRUCTION OF RAIL-ROAD BRIDGE OVER THE GANGES NEAR PATNA

814. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the decision of the Government of India regarding the construction of a rail-road bridge over the Ganges at or near Patna?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I would refer the Honourable Member to the question put by him in the House on the 6th November 1946 and to the reply given.

The project is still under examination

TEACHING OF TELUGU IN HIGH AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY ZONE

815 *Sri V. Gangaraju: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state how many High Schools and Elementary Schools there are in the Bengal Nagpur Railway Zone?

(b) In how many schools Telugu language is being taught?

(c) What is the total number of students who are learning Telugu?

(d) Are Government aware that Telugu is being taught only up to the third standard in the schools in the Bengal Nagpur Railway Zone?

(e) If so, do Government propose to instruct the Bengal Nagpur Railway authorities to introduce Telugu in the higher classes in all the schools managed by the Bengal Nagpur Railway authorities?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have called for the information and will lay a statement on the table of the House in due course.

GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS TO HELP FOR TRAINING IN THE MANUFACTURE OF TEXTILE MACHINERY AND BUILDING FACTORIES IN INDIA

816. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the former German Industrialists are now prepared to help India with trained men to manufacture textile machinery and build factories in India, if the Government of India would interest themselves in the matter?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take steps to secure the help and co-operation of the German Industrialists?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) Government have not received any specific offers from German Industrialists but it must be understood that German Industrialists are not at present free agents. Through the Allied Control Council, the services of German technicians and scientists are being made available to the Allied Countries which require such services. The Government of India are taking steps to secure the services of certain classes of technicians including experts in the manufacture of textile machinery.

(b) Government are not taking any steps to secure the help and co-operation of German Industrialists, but steps are being directed towards securing the services of technical experts

ESTABLISHMENT OF AIR TRAINING CENTRE IN INDIA

817. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state whether in view of the shortage of air and ground personnel, Ground Engineers and other crew, and the growing number of air services and the increasing volume of traffic, Government propose to take steps (i) to establish full-fledged Air Training Centres in different parts of the country for training Indian young men at a reasonable cost in all spheres of air-line operations, and (ii) to attract suitable young men by the introduction of state scholarships, allowances, for giving training in all branches?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given on the 12th February 1947 to parts (b) and (c) of Pt. Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava's starred question No. 242

The terms and conditions of admission of trainees to the different schools are under consideration by Government. A system of scholarships will also be considered

AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN INDIA

818. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to establish an Aircraft Manufacturing Industry in India?

(b) If not, why not?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes. On the recommendation of the U. K. Aircraft Mission an aircraft Manufacturing Industry is being established at the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, Bangalore. The company has entered into an assistance contract with Percival Aircraft Limited, U. K. for the production of Percival "Prentice" Trainer aircraft for the R.I.A.F. This provides for the supply of all technical data and assistance that may be required by Hindustan Aircraft Limited and for the training of Hindustan Aircraft Limited employees at Percival Aircraft Limited. In the beginning the first aircraft will be manufactured from components supplied by Percivals but as the production of the components is developed at Hindustan Aircraft Limited the supply of components from Percival Aircraft Limited will be rapidly eliminated. It is hoped that all the components for about half the aircraft will be made in India before the contract is half completed

(b) Does not arise.

QUOTA OF SUGAR TO SWEETMAKERS IN DELHI

819. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar allotted for Delhi including New Delhi;

(b) the amount of sugar allotted to sweetmakers (Halwaees);

(c) the basis on which the quota of sugar to each sweetmaker was originally fixed;

(d) the circumstances in which the quota fixed has been and may be altered, and

(e) any payment the sweetmakers had or have to make in order to get a favourable quota?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) The total nett allotment for the sugar year (December 1946 to November 1947) is about 14,000 tons for the rationed area of Delhi Province comprising of Old Delhi, New Delhi, Shahadara and Delhi Cantt.

(b) The amount of sugar allotted to sweetmeat-makers (Halwais) of that area is about 710 maunds per week.

(c) Original quotas for sweetmeat-makers were fixed by the Director of Civil Supplies on the recommendations of representative agencies, such as Halwai's Union, Ward Committees, Municipalities, etc. Reductions were made in these quotas where considered necessary on the basis of the actual offtake during the first few weeks of rationing.

(d) The quotas are subject to revision in the light of available supplies, actual consumption and the relative need of different classes of sweetmeat-makers, but owing to continual short-supplies, cuts, uniform in their incidence, have had to be imposed from time to time.

(e) No, Sir.

EXPORT OF GROUNDNUT OIL AND KERNEL TO OTHER COUNTRIES

820. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have decided to export groundnut oil and groundnut kernel and if so, (i) in what quantity (ii) for what consideration, and (iii) to which countries?

(b) Are Government aware that in this country groundnut is also used as food and if so, what are the circumstances which lead or force Government to export it when the country itself is in need of it?

(c) What is the purchasing price of groundnut in this country and what is its selling price in the countries to which it is exported?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Commerce Member. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 19th March, 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable the Commerce Member.

SALE AT UNAUTHORISED RATES OF VEGETABLE OIL PRODUCTS BY CERTAIN VANASPATI MANUFACTURING COMPANIES

821. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the agents and distributors of Amit Vanaspati Manufacturing Company Limited, Ghaziabad, Garesli Flour Mills Company Limited, Delhi, Hindustan Vanaspati Manufacturing Company Ltd., Bombay, Modi Vanaspati Manufacturing Company Ltd., Begamabad and also other vegetable oil producing factories are selling vegetable oil products at unauthorised rates and also granting receipts for their sales and if so, do Government propose to enquire into this and take steps to stop this practice?

(b) Are Government aware that Messrs Behari Lal Bansi Dhar, Delhi have twice or thrice submitted a written complaint on the subject referred to in part (a) to the Vegetable Oil Products Controller for India and that copies of the same have also been forwarded to the Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Food Minister and if so, what steps have Government taken to enquire into the allegations?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) and (b). Only one instance of unauthorised prices being charged by a vanaspati manufacturing concern has come to the notice of the Government. The explanation of the Company concerned is that those sales were made to retailers and consumers direct and the firm charged the sanctioned wholesale and retail prices to cover the cost of this service. The case is under consideration by Government.

ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR PIPERADIH COLLIERY IN HAZARIBAGH DISTRICT

822. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) the extent of lands acquired for Piperadih Colliery within the limits of the Gomuan Police Station in Hazari Bagh District;

(b) the date on which they were acquired,

(c) the classes of lands acquired,

(d) the number of tenants whose lands have been acquired, and

(e) whether the value of the lands has been paid to the tenants either in full or in part, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Necessary information is being collected from the Bihar Government and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

WANT OF WAGONS FOR COAL AT JHARIA AND DHANBAD COALFIELDS

823. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether Government are aware of the complaints of the Collicry owners and merchants of Jharia and Dhanbad and other coalfields regarding the non-availability of wagons, and if so, the steps Government have taken, or propose to take, to remove these grievances?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Government are aware of complaints from the Colliery owners and merchants of Jharia, Dhanbad and Ramgany coalfields regarding the short supply of wagons

The supply of adequate numbers of wagons for coal loading has been affected by slow movements on the East Indian Railway due to many factors including communal disturbances, labour strikes, increased movement of other high priority traffic and sickness amongst staff affecting general operating conditions.

To make more wagons available for coal loading the East Indian Railway have had to restrict loading of other important goods traffic on several occasions.

An allotment of more wagons to the East Indian Railway from the wagon pool has recently been made with a view to improve coal loading. Action is also being taken by the East Indian Railway to improve the turn-round of wagons and it is hoped that these measures will help in the availability of more wagons for coal loading on that Railway.

RESTRICTION ON BOOKING OF GOODS ON E. I. RAILWAY.

824. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) whether war-time restrictions on booking of goods on the East Indian Railway are still in force,

(b) whether it is a fact that at the Railway Booking Office at Hardwar not more than 10 parcels per day by Passenger trains and at the Jwalapur Railway Booking Office not more than 5 loads per day by Goods train, from any one firm are accepted for booking;

(c) if so, the reasons for these restrictions; and

(d) whether any representation was made to the Divisional Superintendent Moradabad by the authorities of the Gurukul Kangri Pharmacy against these restrictions on the booking of goods; if so, the result thereof?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A few of the war-time restrictions imposed by the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities on the booking of goods traffic on the East Indian Railway are still in force, while most others have been withdrawn. Certain restrictions imposed by the Central and Provincial Governments are also in operation.

(b) Restriction on the booking of parcels by passenger trains to the extent of ten consignments—each consignment consisting of not more than ten packages—from any one consignor, operates at all stations on the East Indian Railway and Hardwar is no exception to this. In the case of local booking however this restriction was withdrawn with effect from the 1st January 1947.

There are no restrictions other than those referred to in (a) above on the booking of goods at Jawalapur station.

(c) Restrictions were imposed to limit the acceptance of parcels and goods for despatch to the extent of transport available and thereby avoid congestion and consequent delays at despatching stations. Restrictions imposed by the Central or Provincial Governments however do not come under this category.

(d) A representation from the Gurukul Kangri Pharmacy was received by the Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, for the posting of an additional goods clerk at Jawalapur station alleging that the present incumbent was unable to cope with the work of booking all consignments offered. This is receiving the attention of the Railway Administration.

COOLIE CHARGES FOR BOOKINGS AT RAILWAY BOOKING OFFICE, JAWALAPUR.

825. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) whether Government are aware that at the Railway Booking Office, Jawalapur half-anna extra per Railway receipt is demanded as coolie charges and booking is refused if the same is not paid; and

(b) whether Government are aware that the wages paid to the coolies at the above railway station are too low to attract sufficient number of coolies for loading and unloading goods; if so, whether Government propose to enhance the wages?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The levy of coolie charges is not authorised in connection with the booking of goods at Jawalapur station and Government are also advised that no such charges are demanded at this station.

(b) The loading and unloading of goods at Jawalapur station is done by a contractor who provides sufficient labour, the present rates for the contract are considered adequate.

PROPOSED STRIKE OF ORDNANCE FACTORY WORKERS DUE TO RETRENCHMENT.

826. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item from *Cawnpore* published in the *Hindustan Times* of 23rd February 1947 to the effect that a century wide strike of Ordnance Factory workers is to be launched soon as a protest against the present retrenchment policy of Government;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to avert the threatened strike and whether they propose to invite the representatives of the workers with a view to arriving at an amicable settlement on the question of retrenchment;

(c) whether it is a fact that a deputation of the Ordnance Factory workers recently waited on the Honourable the Vice President of the Interim Government and the Honourable Member for Defence and suggested an alternative proposal for awarding six months pay to the retrenched personnel with a view to helping them to establish themselves elsewhere; and

(d) if so, whether Government have considered the proposal and come to any decision on the point?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) A report appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of 27th February 1947 that the All India Ordnance Employees Federation had taken a decision to this effect.

(b) The All India Ordnance Employees Federation is an unregistered and unrecognised union. Obviously, Sir, Government cannot settle the question of retrenchment by amicable settlement but as many men should be retained as there is really work for

(c) and (d) I understand that this is so. But Government regret they cannot agree to this proposal. If such a concession were granted it would have to be extended to all Departments and Government installations and would impose a financial burden on the country which is not justified. Retrenched personnel have all been paid war bonus or war gratuity where admissible and every effort will be made through Labour Exchanges to find them alternative employment.

REPORT OF PAY COMMISSION *re* RAILWAYMEN'S PAY.

827. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether the Pay Commission has submitted its preliminary report regarding Railwaymen's pay to the Government of India,

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to state (i) the recommendations of the Pay Commission thereon, (ii) how and when Government propose to implement the recommendations, and (iii) the general policy of Government with regard to these recommendations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b) (i). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by the Honourable the Finance Member to starred questions Nos. 311 and 767 on the 14th February 1947 and the 5th March 1947 respectively.

(b) (i) and (iii). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Communiqué issued by Government on the 6th March 1947, copy laid on the table.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Central Pay Commission Report

Government are conscious of a natural desire on the part of their employees in the various services for the publication of the Report of the Central Pay Commission at the earliest possible moment. They appreciate the great personal interest which all Government servants must necessarily have in the outcome of the Commission's labours and are accordingly pleased to publish the following statement for their information.

The Report will be in three parts. Part I will be mainly historical. Part II will deal in a general way with pay, allowances, leave, pension and other conditions of service as applicable to all departments of the Government of India. This part will deal with the main aspects of the problem and in particular with questions such as the classification of services, the minimum and the maximum pay to be fixed, suitable pay structures and the like. In Part III, the Commission will deal with each important department and will make detailed proposals in respect of the salaries to be paid to the employees of each of the principal sections of the public service in the light of the general conclusions reached by the Commission in Part II.

So far advance copies of Part I and of that portion of Part II which deals with pay and allowances and of portions of Part III relating to a few departments only have been received by Government. The Commission have adopted this procedure to enable Government to begin the detailed examination of their proposals at the earliest possible moment, but they have informed Government that they reserve the liberty to make minor corrections or rectification in the portions so far sent to Government, when the Commission are considering their Report as a whole. From a recent enquiry made by the Government, it is learned that the Commission expect to submit their complete and final Report by the end of April or early in May, and, although meanwhile Government will be examining and formulating views on the portions of the Report as they come to hand, it is clear that publication of fragments of the Report as and when they become available and before they have been finalised by the Commission might lead to an incorrect appreciation of the Commission's proposals as a whole. Government servants are aware that pay constitutes only one element in their total emoluments. Leave, Pension or Provident Fund and other conditions of service are also important elements in their total remuneration. To publish only the proposed pay scales would therefore not give a correct and balanced picture of the Commission's full recommendations. Government expect that by the time the final report is

received they will have formulated their decisions on the major issues and these will be published together with the final report early in May.

The task set for the Commission was one of great magnitude and complexity and Government trust that this frank explanation of the glaze at present reached and of the action that Government are taking in the matter will reassure their employees that everything is being done and will be done to make known the proposals of the Commission and Government's decisions thereon at the earliest possible moment. Government would again remind their employees that the revised pay scales will have retrospective effect as from the 1st of January last.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT,
New Delhi, March 6, 1947

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

RECRUITMENT OF SINDHIS TO RAILWAY SERVICES IN SIND AREA

76. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that the Railway employees in the lower subordinate service came in contact with the rural public in the course of their duties,

(b) whether Government are aware that for service in the portion of the North Western Railway passing through Sind area, mostly Punjabis are recruited,

(c) whether Government are aware that such Punjabi recruits are unable to understand the language of the rural population who do not generally speak Urdu,

(d) whether Government are aware that shortage of recruitment of Sindhis is due to the office of the North Western Railway Subordinate Service Commission being at Lahore, and

(e) whether it is proposed to issue instructions to the Subordinate Service Commission on the North Western Railway that adequate number of Sindhis be recruited to Railway service in Sind area, if not, what other steps are proposed to be taken to post people at wayside stations who know the language of the populace using the railway transport in that area in Sind?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Generally speaking, all railway staff come in contact to a varying extent with the public, both rural and urban, in the course of their duties.

(b) Government are informed that this is so due to the majority of the applicants for appointment being Punjabis.

(c) Government are aware that language difficulties exist on all railway systems. They understand, however, that the N. W. Railway have not received any complaints regarding the Sind area in particular.

(d) It has been the experience of the N. W. Railway Service Commission that the number of qualified Sindhi candidates applying for posts on the N. W. Railway is small. In order, however, to make it easy for people residing at distant places from Lahore to appear for interview before the Service Commission, Government have recently sanctioned an additional Member for the Commission to allow of recruitment being undertaken at selected centres away from Lahore. One of these centres will be Karachi.

(e) According to the policy of Government, recruitment and posting of railway employees is not influenced by Provincial considerations, but they have issued instructions to the railways concerned that due consideration should be given to the recruitment of people of all Provinces served by those railways. They hope, therefore, that the arrangements referred to in the reply to part (d) will result in a larger number of qualified Sindhis becoming available for service on the N. W. Railway.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Decision of the Government not to Publish the Recommendations of the Central Pay Commission so far received by them.

Mr. President: I have received a notice from Mr. S. Guruswami of his intention to move an adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely "the situation arising out of the latest Press Communiqué issued by the Government deciding not to publish the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission so far received by the Government until sometime in May thereby resulting in possible dislocation of work in Railway Postal and other Services."

When was this communiqué published in the Press?

Mr. S. Guruswami (Nominated Non-Official). It was published on the 7th.

Mr. President: When the Honourable Member refers to possible dislocation, I take it he means the possibility of strikes.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) Sir, I am sorry I have not received a copy of this adjournment motion and I am told by the Government Chief Whip that he has not received any copy either, but any how I would like to say this much that so far the Government have not received the final report from the Pay Commission and it was considered necessary that a communiqué should be issued which was done explaining the position as it is. The Government have no intention of keeping the report unpublished for a day longer than it is absolutely necessary. We are informed by the Chairman of the Pay Commission that he expects the final report to be submitted to the Government by the 1st week of May. Preliminary report has been received. As a matter of fact, it is a kind of advance copy of the report subject to this that the Commission keep the right to themselves to make any alterations till the final report has been submitted. In view of these facts I am afraid it is not possible for the Government to publish the report till they have received the final copy from the Pay Commission. I can assure my Honourable friend, however, that the Government are as anxious as anybody else to see that the Report is published as soon as it is possible and in any case whatever is the decision of the Government on the recommendations of the Report will be given effect to from the 1st of January 1947. So the employees of the Government will not be affected adversely by the non-publication of the report till May. I have explained the position and I hope the Honourable Member will be satisfied and he will appreciate the difficulty of the Government in not being able to publish the report as desired.

Mr. S. Guruswami: I would like to point out first of all that I delivered personally a copy of this notice of adjournment motion at the room of the Honourable the Finance Member at 10.30 a.m. today, and I am very surprised that he did not receive it. Secondly, regarding the urgency of it, I have received information from different parts of India—as I have toured different parts of India recently—and I know personally the extent of indignation that prevails among the employees of the Government, about the delay in the publication of the report. Unfortunately ...

Mr. President: The Honourable the Finance Member has said that what they have received is perhaps a draft of the report.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: It is an advance copy, a kind of draft.

Mr. President: ...and the report as finally accepted by all the Members of the Pay Commission has not yet been received by the Government. It is therefore premature to raise this question on the basis that the report has been received by the Government. So there is no basis for the Honourable Member's motion till the final report is received. He need not think of the subsequent consequences at this stage. I do not think any further discussion on this point is necessary and I do not give my consent to the motion.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

SECOND STAGE.

Mr. President: The House will now discuss the Demands for Grants. I understand that the agreed time-table in regard to the moving of Cut Motions has been circulated to Honourable Members.

As regards the time-limit for speeches, I suggest that, as usual, the mover of cut motions will have about twenty minutes, and the Government Member replying will have about twenty minutes or more, if necessary. Other speakers will be limited to fifteen minutes.

I trust this will suit Honourable Members.

CHANGE IN PROCEDURE IN RESPECT OF MOVING OF DEMANDS

Mr. President: Now as regards the moving of the Demands, if the Honourable Members are agreeable I suggest a slight change in the procedure. The Demands will be moved one after the other and then, of course, cut motions will be taken up. That will prevent any confusion in the minds of Honourable Members as to which particular Demand is moved or not moved.

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal European): If all the Demands are moved at this stage, there will be a very serious loss of time.

Mr. President: I do not mean all the 91 Demands. I mean all those Demands—17 in all—in respect of which cut motions are to be moved.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: I have no objection.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member): I will be very quick in moving them.

Mr. President: I do not know if the Honourable Member would agree to yet another change in the procedure, which I would like to propose. Instead of the Honourable the Finance Member formally moving each Demand and then the President reading out the same to the House, we may adopt the House of Commons practice where the Chairman of Ways and Means reads out these motions and so long as the consent of the Crown is signified, nobody moves them formally.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes, I think this would be better.

Mr. President: Then I will read out these Demands. The demands that I will read out to the House will be Nos 9, 11, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 48, 54, 55, 57, 59, and 88. I will read out the first Demand in its usual form, and after that, I will only read the number of Demand and the amount.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadian Rural): Many of these cut motions may not be reached at all. The Chair might save its own time and the trouble of reading out all these Demands in advance.

Mr. President: I said I shall read out only the first Demand in the usual form and then I shall merely say Demand No. so and so, with so much amount. (The Honourable the President then read out the following Demands.)

DEMAND No 9—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,81,25,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphic Department'."

DEMAND No 11—CABINET

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,60,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Cabinet'."

DEMAND No. 15—HOME DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,55,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Home Department'."

DEMAND No. 16—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,58,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 21—DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,57,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Commonwealth Relations'."

DEMAND No. 22—FINANCE DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,96,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

DEMAND No. 23—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,89,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

DEMAND No. 24—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,06,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

DEMAND No. 25—DEPARTMENT OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,26,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Works, Mines and Power'."

DEMAND No. 26—DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,07,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Communications'."

DEMAND No. 28—FOOD DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,92,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Food Department'."

DEMAND No. 48—PUBLIC HEALTH

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,90,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Public Health'."

DEMAND No. 54—BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,68,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 55—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 3,34,51,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Industries and Supplies'."

DEMAND No. 57—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 23,68,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

DEMAND No. 70—RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 6,95,30,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Resettlement and Development'."

DEMAND No. 88—PAYMENTS TO RETRENCHED PERSONNEL

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,88,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Payments to Retrenched Personnel'."

DEMAND No. 11—CABINET

Function of the Commodities Prices Board and matters connected therewith

Mr. O. P. Lawson (Bengal European). Mr President, I move

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs 100."

The object of this cut motion is to induce discussion and if possible to obtain a statement from the Government side on what is no more, no less than the cost of living in this country and the possibility of stabilizing that cost of living indeed, if possible of reducing it.

The background against which we have to consider this question is a somewhat distressing one. I do not know whether Honourable Members have yet had time to read the report of the Advisory Planning Committee over which the Honourable Mr. Neogy is sitting. If so, I would advise Honourable Members to consider the Resources Budget which is included at the end of this report. Now, Sir, that Resources Budget shows very clearly that for some time to come this country is facing some very severe shortages, principal amongst which I would mention the coal shortage. The report shows quite clearly that we may expect an annual shortage for sometime of something like $\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of coal, and the report goes further to trace the repercussions of this shortage on various other materials, such as steel and so on. It comes in fact to the conclusion that steel, even with very adequate coal supplies, will be half a million tons short, that cement will be half a million tons short and shorter still unless coal supplies are adequate, that bricks will be short. That, Sir, is bound to have serious repercussions on all internal production and quite apart from this, imports will be restricted by currency restrictions and by the inability of countries abroad to supply this country with what we want. We know very well of numerous shortages of goods all over the world. It will be sometime before those shortages disappear. So, Sir, I think there can be very little argument that during the coming year, the work of this Commodity Prices Board will be extremely important and indeed I am sure that they must be appalled by the magnitude of the problems that face them. Clearly, Sir, the result of this situation must be a tendency towards inflation. There may be money to buy things with, but nothing to buy. And I was much impressed by the statement made by the Honourable Dr. John Matthai the other day to the effect that to some extent leisure was being purchased by the money which would otherwise go towards the purchase of

consumer goods. That seems to me, Sir, to point to a possibly dangerous spiral. Because there is nothing to buy, leisure will be purchased, production will drop, and indeed, Sir, there is only one cure to the situation which faces us. Everything that this Board will be able to do will be no more than a palliative. The only real cure will be production, production and again more production. I will not at this stage discuss whether the conditions following upon the Honourable Member's budget are entirely favourable towards production, production and again production. But there is no doubt whatever that therein lies the only cure and until the cure comes about we are reluctantly compelled to agree that control will be necessary. I may say at once, Sir, that we on this side do not like controls and we hope that at the earliest possible moment these controls will go. The effect of controls is to produce blackmarkets, to interrupt the basic laws of supply and demand, and to introduce a new method of breaking of the law. Indeed, Sir, perhaps the most serious aspect of modern times is the way in which the term 'blackmarket' has become almost a household word. Quite openly as Honourable Members will know, people say "I cannot get such and such a commodity. I cannot run my factory. I cannot make this and I cannot make that unless I go to the black-market to buy my supplies." It seems almost incredible that in that almost daily utterance is entailed a clear breaking of the law. For that reason and for many others we want to see the end of all controls as soon as that is possible. Controls, amongst other things, lead also to the hoarding of supplies, supplies which would otherwise go into consumption and relieve the already short position. As I have said before in this House, if every body put aside one week's supply of food only, one million tons of food-grains would be taken off the market, and that is another reason for getting rid of these controls as soon as it can be done.

But, Sir, we certainly admit that in the meantime the cost of living must be kept within bounds. We must, if possible, stabilise the cost of living and when it is humanly possible, reduce the cost of living. Now, Sir, the terms of reference of this Commodities Prices Board although not very adequate have been published and perhaps I might quote them:

"At the request of the Central Government to advise in the light of all relevant data and of cash conditions as may be specified, what prices or price limits should be fixed for commodities, the price of which is controlled by the Central Government or by the Provincial Government;

2 To keep under constant review the movements of commodity prices in India and whether at the request of the Central Government or of their own volition to advise the Central Government whether the price of any commodity not controlled should be controlled and, if so, what price or price limits should be fixed for that commodity."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural). Are these your recommendations?

Mr. C. P. Lawson: No, Sir, The Honourable Member may possibly recognise the press communique that was issued by Government sometime ago.

Now, Sir, there is no mention in this regarding quantity control. The Board is merely to advise on questions of price but I take it that the interpretation there will be fairly liberal. I cannot, for instance, imagine that any body can adequately advise upon a price structure unless they knew what the quantity control will be and indeed their recommendations, presumably as regards quantity controls, need to be considered together with their recommendations regarding prices.

What are the categories of the commodities which will need to be controlled? First of all we have those commodities which are now covered by statute and controlled by Government. These come under the Essential Supplies Act which covers foodstuffs, cotton and woollen textiles, paper

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petroleum and petroleum products, spare parts of mechanically-propelled vehicles, coal, etc. Those are items admittedly of absolute necessity which are controlled by statute. Infringement of the law in this connection leads to prosecution; it also of course leads to black-marketing and to a number of other abuses. The control of course is necessary and the situation must presumably continue for the present.

There is a second category of goods which, though under no statutory control, are generally controlled by agreement between Government and the people who have those goods for disposal. That has behind it no statutory sanction. A man could not be fined in the courts or proceeded against for infringing his agreement with Government but, *ipso facto*, to my mind, it is a better form of control, because the sanction behind it is that the person who has these goods for distribution may refuse to distribute them where there is profiteering or mishandling. I say that in some ways it is a better form of control, because it brings me to my third category, the category of completely uncontrolled articles. It would, in my opinion, be entirely impossible to apply price control even to all the articles in this country which are in general use. They are so numerous and the field is so wide, the sources of supply and distribution are so diverse that I see no prospect of any kind of adequate control over the whole field. If the goods which are now controlled to some extent by agreement between Government and the producers were handed over to statutory control, the administration would become more complicated and more difficult, indeed further black markets, further proceedings, further bribery and corruption would ensue. So the Commodity Prices Board have to my mind to consider what is the optimum of effect that they can have. They cannot control every thing. Whatever they do, they can only hope, in a general way, to control the most important products in daily use and hope thereby to induce a general feeling of stability which will affect ancillary consumer goods. The main need of course is to correlate the prices and it would be interesting to hear from the Government side how they propose to proceed. One might, in fact, have a situation at present, in which one shop selling controlled goods might be alongside another shop selling uncontrolled goods. You might have one proprietor earning a very moderate pittance on his business and the proprietor next door earning enormous profits and earning them quite legally because there would be no control over his goods. Clearly, therefore, the efforts of this Board should be directed towards bringing all prices to some correlated level.

What would be the basis that would be used to bring these prices together? We have of course these items to which I have already referred, that are already controlled by statute. Their prices are already controlled and a certain basis has been established. There may be inequalities in that basis. There may be inequalities in the industrial basis as compared with the agricultural basis but at least in the statutory field there is some basis established and presumably it will be the intention of Government to bring items which are at present uncontrolled somewhere in relation to the controlled field.

Perhaps I might now say a very brief word about agricultural prices in their regulation with industrial prices. I do not know whether it will be within the terms of reference of the Commodity Prices Board to examine this question and to see whether the price levels are reasonably equal. Are agricultural prices on a higher level or on a lower level than the industrial prices which have now been fixed? I have been impressed by the Honourable the Finance Member's statement to the effect that some 17 crores of rupees have been paid out to stabilise agricultural prices. Perhaps in due course we may have from

the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Food itself some statement as to exactly how that Rs. 17 crores was spent. It was spent presumably to reduce the price of imported foodstuffs so that they were on a level with the indigenous prices. I do not quite know how that will work. I suppose that some imports from, say, the Argentine may be more expensive than imports from, say Canada or Australia. Whether any or all three of these imports were higher or lower than the indigenous price I do not know. But what I do know is that although the Rs. 17 crores seems to be a very large sum it amounts to nothing more than 6 annas a maund on the amount of total grain production of this country which is sold. Taking into account that 75 per cent. of the 60 million tons of grain that this country produces is consumed by the agricultural population, on the 25 per cent that is sold the 17 crores comes to little more than 6 annas per maund. Although that Rs. 17 crores may make a very considerable difference to the Honourable the Finance Member's budget, I am inclined to think that with careful equalisation of prices all over the agricultural field, it might be dissipated into a form in which it was negligible. That is why I would be interested to know just whether the scope of the Commodities prices Board will cover some such examination. I admit, Sir, that it will be a very big matter and a matter which would take them probably a considerable time.

I have so far dealt merely with the functions of this Board in the direction of checking inflation. The functions of this Board must however clearly be flexible to deal with sudden movements the other way. There may be many developments in this country, industrial budgetary and otherwise, which may induce the bottom to fall out of certain markets. The effect of a sudden movement of that type might be just as damaging as a movement in the upward direction. For instance a drop of Re. 1 a maund in the price of food-grains, I calculate, would involve the sellers of the agricultural produce, quite apart from the consumers, in a loss of something like Rs. 42 crores—a very severe loss which might clearly upset the economic balance of the trade. I hope therefore that the functions of the Commodities Prices Board will not be too rigid.

They are an expert committee. I would be glad if the committee was a little bit bigger because of the diversity of their functions and these, I think, will be so great that without having recourse to considerable technical assistance it would be very difficult for them to encompass the task which they have before them. That task is in its ultimate solution impossible. They can never, I think, bring everything under control. Their only hope is to bring a certain number of articles in general consumption under control—articles which themselves may involve ingredients which may be controlled by Government, half controlled by mutual agreement, or under no control at all. Soap strikes me immediately as an article in point depending to some extent on fallows which to the best of my knowledge are not controlled at all on caustic which is controlled by mutual agreement and on oils and so on which are under Government control. There you have the diversity of the problem. I hope that the Finance Member will be able to tell us that quite apart from having an adequate and as indeed they are, a high-level standard of membership they will also have access to expert advice in respect of particular commodities.

One further point, Sir, and I have done. The first part of the terms of reference that I read appears to indicate that the Board would not be required to give unsolicited advice to Government. But the second part, I think, corrects that and indicates that unsolicited advice may, and should, be given. On receipt of that advice in respect, say of prices in a certain Province, I would be glad to know how Government will proceed. If they propose to take action on the advice of this Board in respect of prices ruling in a certain

[Mr. C. P. Lawson]

province, I take it that consultations with the provincial authorities will be necessary.

Those, Sir, cover the points which I wish to make to give rise to discussion and to draw a statement from the Government Benches. I think that the main wish that the whole House will have is that the cost of living in this country shall be established as much as possible and that in good time it should also be possible to reduce the cost of living. Apart from that, the field before this Commodities Prices Board is now open and a very wide field it is. They certainly have the European Group's hearty good wishes and to a very large extent their sympathy in the almost Herculean task which confronts them. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions' Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I welcome the proposal of the Honourable the Finance Member for establishing a Commodity Prices Board. I very much appreciate the viewpoint which he has before him. His object is to reduce the price index of various commodities which have gone up by more than 300. But I have two serious difficulties in my mind to which I would like to draw his attention. The first is this. I said in 1942, when Diwan Bahadur Mudaliar for the first time fixed the price of wheat at Rs 4 a maund, that he was putting the cart before the horse, because to fix a price without the control of the stock will not be workable. The result of fixing the price without controlling the stock is that all the articles are transferred from the front shop to the back shop, which you call the black market. If you go to the front shop in any place where there is price control and ask for a thing the answer is 'No' but if you walk inside, in the second chamber where no accounts are kept, where receipts are not given and where any amount is demanded, the commodities are all there. Fixing the price without controlling the stock is like putting the cart before the horse. Although price control is intended to benefit the consumer, in practice he can get the things only from the black market—from the second chamber. I should like to know what precautions this Board propose to take about controlling the stock so that the black market may be avoided. There must be severe penalties. Some methods must be devised for controlling the stock before orders are issued for the control of the prices. I hope the Board will go into this question thoroughly.

My second difficulty is this. At present the only measure you have got is your paper rupee which is an indefinite quantity. Every mathematician and scientist, when he wishes to measure a thing, lays down his unit of measurement, which is a fixed quantity. Your unit of measurement, which is the paper rupee, has not got a fixed value. If you fix the prices on the basis of the paper rupee, the prices will vary because of inflation and deflation. This is a very important thing. The first condition precedent is that the price of the paper rupee ought to be fixed in terms of gold and silver. If you allow your paper money to find its own level in terms of these important commodities by which the prices in the world are always compared, you will always fail in your efforts. If you really mean to do something, the first effort of this Commodity Prices Board should be to fix the value of the paper rupee in terms of gold and silver which are the only units adopted in the world for comparing the prices of commodities in the world market.

I suggested this to the Governor of the Reserve Bank when he was going to New York on behalf of the Government of India. I asked him to press this point before the International Bank but I am sorry he has not done it and he

forgot it entirely. The International Bank has fixed the purchasing power of gold but they have not fixed the sale price of gold. Unless you fix the sale price of gold at the same time, it will not be possible to fix the price of gold in terms of the currency of every other country.

I should like the Finance Member to draw the attention of this new Board to this fact that the price of paper rupee should be fixed in terms of gold and the first step which ought to be taken is to press on the International Bank that they should fix the sale price of gold and also the purchase price. As a corollary to that bullion exchanges would have to be closed down. I very much appreciate what the Finance Member said about the abolition of the stock exchanges and I say that along with that the bullion exchanges should also be abolished. Without abolishing the bullion exchanges it is impossible to fix the price of your paper rupee in terms of gold and silver. You cannot be gambling on your unit. The unit should be a definite quantity. I should like to hear from my friend on this point.

Without stabilising the price of the paper rupee, it will be exceedingly difficult to stabilise the prices. Wheat and rice are the two important commodities by which the prices of your other foodstuffs should be judged. If you fix the prices of wheat and rice, the prices of the other foodstuffs will be automatically settled.

The third thing is the fixation of the prices of piecegoods and along with that the price of cotton will also be fixed. If you do this, you will find that the prices of all the other articles will be automatically adjusted. Mr. Lawson mentioned that there are innumerable other articles whose prices cannot be fixed but there are certain key articles in terms of which the prices of all other articles can be fixed. If you fix the price of wheat and rice, the prices of nearly every other eatable commodity will be adjusted. Therefore I say that if you fix the price of gold and silver, rice and wheat, cotton and piecegoods, all other things will find their own level.

If you begin to take up sugar, for example, you will never succeed. Wages cannot also be fixed, because the wages are entirely dependent on the price index of the commodities which the workmen require for their use—the articles necessary for their living.

I therefore beseech this Board in the first instance not to think of the fixing of price without controlling the stock. If they can do it without controlling the stock, let them come and discuss it with us and if they can convince us that the thing can be done. We will support them. We ought also to bring down the price index to a reasonable level. It was 130 in 1939. This has also to be done gradually and it cannot be done all at once. I remember the late Finance Member, Sir, Jeremy Raisman, also said that the price index ought to be somewhere between 125 and 140. I think my Honourable friend Dr John Matthai, when I had a talk with him some time ago, was also of the opinion that this should be the standard which we should aim at when we fix our index price, that is, 125 to 140. In order to achieve this object, they cannot take up any commodities they like, otherwise that commodity will go to the black market and in practice the price will be much higher than what it was before the control. So, they should take up only the three articles which I have mentioned, namely, gold and silver, wheat and rice and cotton and textiles and leave the other things alone. I very much welcome the step which the Honourable the Finance Member has taken. At the same time, the recommendations of this Board will not be very effective and will not be of material importance to us unless they take precautions on the points which I have just mentioned. With these words, I support the motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, there seems to be a sort of a general drive in favour of stabilisation of prices and stabilisation of the cost of living as my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson has put it. And when it is put like that, nobody will be able to object to it. But how is it going to work out in its effects on different classes of people? It is a notorious fact that whenever prices rise, the agricultural prices are the last to rise and the same is the case with agricultural wages and industrial wages. They are also too slow to rise. But when prices begin to fall, it is the agricultural prices which fall more quickly and precipitately in the end. That has been the experience not only of our own country but of all countries in the world. Even in regard to the war inflation, that has been the experience. Every one has admitted that during the first three years of the war, agricultural prices had not risen half as high as the industrial prices, particularly cloth. And when prices have begun to fall, it is, again, the same experience. Although it may be said by some of the people of the towns that agricultural prices are not falling, actually they begin to fall much more quickly. Now, if we are anxious to achieve the stabilisation of prices, how are we to achieve it? My Honourable friend Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad has stated that we should try to stabilise the prices in proportion to the prices of wheat and rice and cotton and textiles to start with. Therefore, it stands to reason that you have to settle what prices you are going to pay for wheat and rice and for cotton and textiles? How are you to settle it? There was a Committee appointed by Government over which Sir V. T. Krishnamachari presided and it has suggested the manner in which fair and remunerative prices can be fixed for agricultural commodities. It has also suggested how the administrative machinery, which is to assist the Government, has to fix these prices. But what is it that the Government of India has done? It has more or less shelved that report and has put it in cold storage or rather by-passed it by appointing this Commodities Prices Board. This Board is expected to control the prices or to fix the prices not only of agricultural commodities but of all commodities. Who has suggested this, we do not know? But then, why is it that this Board has been appointed in place of the other organisations that the Krishnamachari Committee has suggested? That Committee has suggested the appointment of a Price Determination Commission and also a Commodity Corporation and later on an All-India Agricultural Prices Council. Nothing has been done to implement these recommendations, and this Board has been inflicted upon all of us. This Board, we are told, is also seized of the consideration of the price of wheat and is expected to begin to consider the prices of paddy and rice during the next month. Why this change has been made, we do not know? But I have a sort of a fear that with a view to bring down the prices of agricultural commodities first of all, this Board has been appointed in this manner by by-passing the recommendations of the other Committee. Secondly, how are these prices to be stabilised? In what way are they going to be done? The Krishnamachari Committee has suggested this:

"A fair price as we would define it, is such as would leave to the producer an income sufficient to maintain him and his family at a standard of life equivalent to that enjoyed by comparable classes of the population. This implies that due allowance should be made for the costs of such goods and services as make up a reasonable standard of living for cultivators as a class."

This is their eighteenth recommendation. If we keep this in our mind and if we also keep in mind the very important consideration that the standard of life of all other classes will in the end depend upon the employment that they derive from manufactures and that the prosperity of manufactures will in the end depend upon the prosperity as well as the standard of life of agricultural classes, then it will be realised that it will be a very bad policy to try to bring down the agricultural prices in a unilateral manner.

It is a notorious fact that the past Finance Members, who were all Europeans, and the present Indian Finance Members, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan as well

as Dr. John Mathai, have thought that inflation should be checked and therefore prices should be brought down and in order to bring down the prices, the agricultural prices should be brought down first. I say this is a suicidal policy to pursue.

But, then, it is stated that if you were to allow the agricultural prices to remain at the level at which they are, then you cannot control inflation. Let me tell them that if they were to look into the *Eastern Economist* of two weeks ago they will find that the prices of a number of manufactured goods are going up and they have been going up for the last six or twelve months and no effort has so far been made to prevent the rise of prices of these manufactured commodities. In addition, to that, the prices which actually rule in the black markets are easily twice as high as the controlled prices. What effort has been made by Government to prevent this black-marketing? My Honourable friend Mr. Lawson wants these controls to be increased in number and to be spread over a number of other commodities. In short, he wants non-statutory controls in addition to the controls that are reached by agreement between the Government and the industrialists. It all comes to the same thing. The more controls you have the more black markets there will be. The more black market there is the higher will be the cost of the standard of life of the people and particularly the higher will be the cost of cultivation that the agriculturist will be obliged to meet. Therefore, until and unless Government are able to devise an administrative machinery by which they will be able to prevent this black market, at least to check it and, if necessary, to remove some of these controls, it would not be possible for them to stop this rising spiral of inflation.

Then, they may say after all, the expenditure on food forms a very high percentage of the total expenditure of the industrial proletariat and therefore it should be stopped first. If they are serious about it, they should also be serious about the cost of standard of living of agriculturists themselves. Many of these industrial commodities, the agriculturists are obliged to purchase only in black markets. Therefore these prices are going up with the result that in its own turn the cultivation cost goes up and therefore the price of agricultural commodities go up. It is all working in a vicious circle. You must break it somehow or other. Why do you want to break it only on the agricultural sector? In order to break the backbone of the agriculturists! Let it be remembered that there is a regular flight away from food crop cultivation. The present tendency of a peasant if he has any sense in any part of India is to break away from food crop cultivation and he is taking to cultivation of commercial crops like sugar, oil seeds, etc. Any crop that brings him money is easily taken-up, because he has got to pay not only interest on debt, he has to pay land revenue, he has to pay the various sales taxes both provincial and central and on top of it he has to procure his necessities of life at black market rates. Very soon you will be faced with a serious crisis in India on the food front which you cannot cope with merely by importing food-stuffs from abroad into this country. Even if you import food stuffs from abroad, you will not be able to import in such large quantities as to be able to tackle the prices. Therefore it stands to reason that you have got to tackle manufactures also. What are you doing on this front? So far as the industrial proletariat is concerned, you agree and reasonably too, to raise the level of wages from time to time. The professionals also get higher wages. When it comes to the industrialist, there is greater and greater exemption from taxation for him. So far as the agriculturists are concerned more and more taxes are put on them. The industrialists are highly organised and hence they are able to get concessions from the Government, whereas the agriculturists who are highly disorganised are left in the cold. Let me warn you about what is happening in Bihar. When the Food Member went recently to Behar, he found that control prices were not at all enforceable. They are not being enforced, they cannot be enforced. The Behar Prime Minister was obliged to threaten the peasants with the aid of the police and the magistracy and he had to use coercive

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

processes in order to extract from them very small food surplus because the price level at which you control for the food grains is very very low, and very very unremunerative and unfair to the peasants. And to make it remunerative to the peasants, the crops have to be sold only at much higher rates than Control rates. That means that your controls are failing.

To the extent they succeed, they succeed only on the agricultural front I say this is most unfair.

The next point which occurs to me is this. I may be asked, in that case how is inflation to be stopped? What shall we do with it. I have got a solution to offer. You agree to pay remunerative price to agriculturist. Then you tell him that you are going to keep with yourself one rupee for every maund of wheat or paddy that the agriculturist sells to you. This one rupee per maund will be kept as a reserve, as a deposit with the Government who will be starting a number of agro-industries, oil crushing factories, rice mills, vanaspati factories, sugar factories and so on. The Government will be starting these factories with this deposit that they take for each maund of food crop that they take from the peasant. The Government will treat these deposits as shares in these industrial concerns of the respective peasants who contribute this. Any profits that are earned will go back in proportion to the monies taken from the individual peasants. In this way the Government can help the peasant. At the same time you are not putting this money into circulation.

Moreover so far as peasants are concerned, this money cannot be spent by them on useless goods. In view of the scarcity of consumer goods these peasants will not waste their money on them and inflate their prices. There will be no inflation because extra money that the peasants will get for their crops will not remain in their hands, they will be kept with the Government. This money will not be kept in banks but they will be utilised in productive industrial undertakings.

I should like my Honourable friend to come to one of our villages and see for himself whether the peasants are getting more and more money or less and less money. The peasants are obliged to work harder and for longer hours to produce enough for their sustenance because the prices that you pay for their agricultural products are very unremunerative. As regards the consumer goods that are necessary for them, they will have to purchase in the black market and so they are obliged to work much harder. The industrial proletariats have much more leisure. But they are a microscopic minority in this country. The greater bulk of the population in this country are agriculturists. If more money is put into the hands of agriculturists, it may be contended they may indulge in purchasing their needs in black markets. To that extent the inflation would go up. That is why I suggested that one rupee for every maund of food crops purchased from the peasant should be retained by Government and invested in useful industries to help the peasants. I was told that in U. P. and Behar a few years ago, a portion of the money that was being paid for sugar cane was being kept with the Government as a sort of reserve in the name of the peasants. It is no use putting this money in the form of national savings certificates. They should be invested in productive industrial undertakings directly and immediately concerned with agriculture so that the profits therefrom can be paid back to the peasants who have contributed this money.

Then, the next point I wish to refer to is this. Why is it that the Government of India have not chosen to implement the recommendations of the Price Sub-Committee. Those recommendations are not quite satisfactory to me because they suggest that we have got to wait for a number of years before this Agricultural Price Advisory Council is to be appointed. They suggest that immediately a price committee should be appointed to fix the price of these two commodities to start with. Is it not the duty of the Government to see that

such a commission is appointed in order to help the price Control Board. Instead of that they have appointed a committee composed of a High Court Judge and two other persons. Nobody who is connected with agriculture is on this committee. They expect such a Board to stabilise the price of agricultural commodities. Sir, I must emphatically protest against this procedure. I agree with Mr. Lawson that this Commodity Board should be augmented in its personnel, by adding one or two agriculturists, or economists with specialised training in agriculture. They should be assisted by an Advisory Council, whose members represent all interests, agricultural workers, landed peasants and so on, so that they can have the benefit of their experience.

Finally I suggest that this Board should be asked to take evidence from various people interested in various classes of production of various commodities in the same way as the Tariff Board is expected to work. In this regard I also wish to suggest that in view of the fact that the agriculturists in this country are less organised and that they are less experienced politically and economically, the Government should offer them every assistance by providing them with the help of competent Economists in the same way as the Government provides lawyers free of cost to poor litigants who are dragged into courts.

In conclusion I request the Honourable the Finance Member to give us an assurance that at the earliest possible moment the recommendations of Sir V. T. Krishnamachari committee will be implemented.

Mr. Mann Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, Mr. Lawson has raised one of the most important points so far as the functions of the Commodities Price Board are concerned. But I must congratulate the Government in the appointment which they have made. They have secured the services of one of the most outstanding public servants from Bombay and it was very necessary that a high level price-fixation was made. You will remember, Sir, that there was plenty of complaint with regard to fixation of price regarding paper, textiles and various other articles because these were only made in consultation with manufacturers and government departments. And it was alleged—it was certainly proved in the case of cloth because Government themselves changed within a fortnight their decision to increase the prices of coarse cloth—that sometimes Government were jockeyed into decisions unfavourable to the community. That is very important, as indeed the whole speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Ranga here shows the difficulty of balancing the consideration as between the producers on the one side and the consumers on the other. It is not merely the producers and the consumers; it is a question of balancing the supply on the one side and the demand on the other. The Commodity Prices Board will have to decide one of the most important issues, namely, to what extent subsidies can be given by Government with regard to imported grains when they arrive; and the whole question becomes one of subsidy when there is a difference of purchase price and the price ruling in this country.

Then there are decisions of the Tariff Board where also by force of circumstances when new articles arrive the whole basis on which the Tariff Board may have given decisions may be wiped out, and the question would again arise whether the previous fixation of prices was fair and proper to all the interests concerned; and this Board is not coming a day too soon. This country is already suffering from the spiral with regard to prices and wages. Wages have been increased all-round, Government themselves are anticipating an enormous increase in their salaries and demands; and as the salaries increase there is more purchasing power in the pockets of people who are in their turn demanding commodities which are not there. The tragedy is that actually in 1946-47 the production of almost everything that we reckon as organised production has fallen. In jute, cement, steel, sugar, paper, cloth and in various other articles everywhere the production has fallen. Actually when the whole world is having measures for increasing production, in India the production has fallen, and

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

of course the Honourable Member for Supplies does roll off the reasons, namely, reduction of hours and transport difficulties and so on. But these are the very reasons which we have been given for the last two or three years; and I say that since this Government have come into power it is their duty to go thoroughly into this and to see whether by any extraordinary measures the emergency arising out of reduced production can be overcome. Recently in the Standing Committee for the Department of Supply and Industries we were told about the deficiency in cloth, and—very cold comfort—there was a paragraph saying that when new machinery arrives from abroad more cloth will be produced. They were unable to say when this new machinery was arriving. Now, Sir, it does not behove a big Government to give views in public of that kind. We are not all that helpless that we cannot increase the production in this country if all put their heads together. And I fear I must reiterate the complaint which I made once before that the departments of the Government of India are working too much in water-tight compartments. Every one is concerned only with what he is about and does not think of the whole. Whereas the kind of topics which the Commodity Prices Board will have to consider necessarily are topics which will cover not one department but which will spread over five or six departments' activities. Now, Sir, the whole issue, as the Planning Advisory Board has suggested, is that there is a deficiency of supply. In steel alone this country is short to the extent of one million tons. This steel shortage is cumulative; it is not like wheat shortage. If I do not eat today my shortage does not go up to tomorrow. Not so with steel; if a house is not built today it will be built after one, two or three years. How can we make good this cumulative shortage of steel? The manufacturing processes may be examined; if the manufacturers can increase it give them a bonus or some other inducement. Give the workmen bonuses if there is extra work. Until there is more production there cannot be an end to black marketing or to control.

I have suggested before that Government should make special efforts to get imports and they should also negotiate barter agreements with other countries which can supply the goods. There should also be a certain amount of State trading which will add to the commodities in their hands. Sir, this Government has got popular support behind them and we will support all their measures here and outside. That reputation of theirs depends on what they are able to do in the matter of food, clothing, housing and above all to what extent they can reduce the black markets. For that I made suggestions once in the budget speech and I again suggest to the Finance Member to consider whether temporarily for a period of two years the duties on five or six articles like steel, cement, timber, paper, cloth, and sugar cannot be suspended. There is not much in the world that will come here, but they will certainly destroy the black market. Sir, I want Government to go thoroughly into the problems raised by Mr. Lawson's cut motion; but so far as the Commodity Prices Board is concerned I think it is an excellent measure and I congratulate Government on having taken that step.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Captain G. T. B. Harvey (Madras: European): A few points which I wanted to place before the House have actually been touched upon from two or three different points of view by my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader on this side, Prof. Ranga and Dr. Zia Uddin, but there are certain other aspects which I think may not have been remarked and which I would rather like the House to consider.

In the Miscellaneous portion of his Budget speech, the Honourable the Finance Member—from whom of course all blessings flow—told us that he has already set up a Commodity Prices Board to advise him on a consistent price policy. I take it that controls will form most of the monopoly of this new authority and that out of the Honourable Member's cornucopia for this year, will tumble a perfect stream of ordinances, forms and officials, all labelled 'Controls'.

I expect, when the millenium comes, we shall look back on the epoch of controls without pride, because controls denote the inability of this generation to adjust their economy properly without stringent compulsion, and its counterpart, selfish and crafty dodging of that compulsion. In late years we have had control after control in all forms and of various commodities, some of them fairly successful, some of them complete failures, due largely to unprincipled greed on the part of traders and the appalling venality of officials, both of which have already been recognized in this House. How does it come about, for instance, that a purely textile retailer should suddenly blossom out with a large line of imported fountain pens or cheap jewellery? Or why have manufacturers or importers of repute in the textile industry found it necessary, in order to protect their reputation, to break away from their own traditions and open retail shops to sell their goods at fair prices. In fact the proposed setting up of this Commodity Prices Board—purposely to interfere with what used to be considered the normal course of commercial intercourse—is in itself an admission of the feebleness both of the public conscience, and of official efforts to direct it. That, however, is nothing against the Board itself, and since controls of some sort seem to be inescapable for the moment, all the more power to its elbow. Let us have controls, as long as they are strong, hot and clean! It seems anyhow to have the opportunity of avoiding a fatal weakness of other Control Boards, in that it should be able to correlate the economies of several positive necessities of life which have hitherto been treated as if they were independent subjects, whereas they are essentially interdependent. Prof Rana quoted from the report of the Agricultural Policy Committee's Price Sub-Committee telling us about the machinery for the control of cereal foodstuffs—maximum and minimum prices, subsidies to compensate agriculturists, and reserve stocks with which to satisfy emergent public demands—in fact the whole apparatus for raising floors and lowering ceilings when the necessity occurs. I suggest that, if it proves practicable and if it is not already abandoned, it should not only apply to agricultural produce, but to other basic necessities forming the standard of life in this country. Certainly neither the special eggs of special geese, nor empirical ideologies should be given anything but the most justly proportioned weight in any policy to which the Board may commit itself.

To be more concrete, I am sure the House will agree that the general standard of living in this country depends largely on four factors—food, clothing, fuel and labour. The supply first, and then the cost of the distribution of these, not only vitally affect the people, but they vitally affect each other. And of the first three there is a serious shortage, with the result that that inflationary corruption-carrying demon sits on the neck of India at the moment. If all three could be adjusted, they would probably have a very mollifying influence when regulating—as it will have to be regulated—that most difficult and exacting fourth economic factor, Labour. Anyway the present-day result of controls is to my mind nothing to be proud of. I come from a part of the country, for instance, where my servant cannot by law buy more than one *dhoti* or one pair of cotton trousers in a year—five yards of mill made material being the legal limit—at what he thinks a reasonable price. He can buy more of a different manufacture at rather more than double that cost. I will come to that in a moment. I think the House will agree that in order to keep up appearance every man requires say one *dhoti* in washing and one to wear, but by law he simply cannot buy it except at a price which is beyond his means. You might say 'let him buy what else he wants at the other place', but how can he? I

[Captain G. T. B. Harvey:]
would like to point out that it is very difficult for a man with a family, because not only is his clothing costing him so much, but the ordinary cost of living which consists of other commodities which I have mentioned have already risen by perhaps 150 to 200 per cent as compared to the prices prevailing in 1930.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Calcutta Non-Muhammadan Urban):
Much more than that!

Captain G. T. B. Harvey: I said at least. The reason for a price-ticket of Rs. 17/8/- on a dhoti instead of Rs. 7/8/- is simply that it is made by an industry which is at present uncontrolled. I do not say that the industry is not desirable or its products are not efficient, but it does point to the non-correlation of controls. They may be all right, but they must bear a real proportion, the one to the other, and they to several others, before millions of people can possibly be expected to appreciate them or live at a decent standard.

I have not the time to go into all those subjects so I propose to stick to 'cloth' and see how the actual producer of these cloths has also suffered from the non-correlation of controls. Here is the whole country crying out for the supply of a reasonably-priced standard of cloth. Rs. 7/8/- for a dhoti is all right. Rs. 17/8/- is not good enough. At the former price we want all that you can give us. Why is there shortage? I suppose the textile trade is a matter of cotton growing, textile manufacture and distribution. All that is bound up with fuel and food and those have been already subject to controls. You will remember the grim days of 1943 when the prices of yarn and cloth soared inordinately. The extra demand that the war might create might have been foreseen beforehand. Nevertheless it wasn't, and the poor suffered and the wages bill rose and so did the prices of everything else following the inflationary law. In that year the Textile Control Board took over from the Cotton Textile Panel, whose duty had been mainly to fix the prices for supplies of yarn and cloth to the Defence Services, and with the help of conscientious millowners it became the spearhead of an official anti-inflationary drive. They apparently did inter-correlate cause and effect and industry with industry anyhow to some extent. The result was that between the months of April and December of that year, there was a drop in clothing prices of 40 per cent. Raw cotton prices also fell steeply and, I take it, on purpose because when food was likely to be so short, Government wanted to switch the agriculturist from cash crops to food crops. A definite plan to reduce the cost of living seemed to be going well, so well that Government had to introduce a "floor" price for raw cotton, and they themselves bought three lakhs of bales. That wholesome tendency went on till March 14, 1946 when the cost of clothing to the people was only half what it was two years before, and this is roughly speaking, the level of prices in India today in spite of an authorised lift in the price of coarse Yarn in March 1946.

Here is my point for the need of constant review and the adjustment of three main commodities. While the cost to the poor man of cotton cloth, mill-made, remains comparatively reasonable—when he can get it—what has happened to the parallel basic commodities, both in relation to the public and the industry engaged in supplying the commoner types of textile. If you take 100 as the probable index figure, the following commodity prices appear in December 1946: Cotton cloth stands at 262, coal stands at 298, raw cotton is 316, and food, rice and wheat stand at 359.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Including tobacco!

Captain G. T. B. Harvey: If these figures are not quite up to date I must be excused; my main theme is the lack of correlation of controls. The net result of the absence of any comprehensive review is further indicated by the indices I can get of the cost of living. They are rather sporadic and hardly up to date but are nonetheless illuminating. They show that in July last year Bombay's figure had gone up by 28 to 268, Ahmedabad by 42 to 317, Nagpur

by 30 to 816, Jubbulpore by 24 to 820, and Madras by 15 to 237, Bombay and Madras I find have risen since by 11 and 15 points.

You can see the grave effect of those figures on the business of those very industries to whom alone Government can look for the major provision of an essential and terribly short commodity such as cloth. They have had to face the higher cost of raw cotton without a corresponding rise to their retail price; they have had to pay heavy wage increases, and on top of these there are those concomitants of social legislation, (which in theory they should not object to, given equitable controls of the main commodity factors) namely shortened working hours, and holidays with pay—I am actually informed that there are mills today engaged on the coarser quality of cloth, who if they were buying raw cotton today, would have to turn out the stiff actually at a working loss. There is surely something wrong in that itself and there is something equally wrong in the handloom trade satisfactory as handloom products may be, and expanding as may be this favoured cottage industry. This uncontrolled industry contributes to the rising cost of living very much more obviously than do mill products, for mill cloth is only 160 per cent. above what it was before the war whereas handloom cloth is 300 to 600 per cent above pre-war rates. And in the result you get an overall shortage of both mill and handloom goods, deficiency in distribution, and inadequacy of controls, and exactly those evils which the official onslaught in 1943 tried to defeat, namely an enormous blackmarket both for coarse yarns and cloth.

I began by saying that I dislike controls on principle. But if there is to be control, then I would ask the Commodity Prices Board so to advise Government that controls are first and foremost correlated and a equitable and that they are most exactly and indiscriminately administered, so that we get somewhere near a proper price and wage structure and a comprehensive rationalisation of production and living costs, together with the elimination of any unequitable competition, so that those large scale producers who alone can bridge the gap between demand and supply can be encouraged to do so.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay: European): The question be now put

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member): I greatly welcome the discussion that has taken place in the morning and this afternoon. I am sure the Honourable Members would not expect me at this stage to tell them in detail as to how the Commodity Prices Board would function. As a matter of fact some very useful suggestions have been made by the Honourable Members of this House and I have no doubt that the members of the Board will give their deepest consideration to those suggestions.

I shall deal with Prof. Ranga first, because there is only one point which concerns his speech and that is mainly the question of prices of agricultural produce. My Honourable friend has expressed his great concern over the prices of agricultural produce. I can assure him that there is no criminal design on the part of the Government in appointing this Board to deprive the cultivator of his legitimate dues. The Board is not being appointed for the purpose of cutting down the prices of agricultural commodities. This Board is appointed for the purpose of correlating the prices of agricultural produce, industrial goods and other commodities and therefore he need have no fear on that score.

My Honourable friend Prof. Ranga also made a suggestion that some economic adviser should be provided by the Government to put the case of the agriculturists when this Board is considering the question of the price of agricultural produce and he brought in the comparison of a criminal court of law

[Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan]

where a person who is being prosecuted is generally provided with a defence counsel, if he is not in a position to engage one for himself. I think Prof. Ranga is an economist himself and I have not the slightest doubt that the agriculturists would welcome his assistance and the Board will be only too glad to give him an opportunity to put the point of view of the agriculturists before it.

My Honourable friend Mr. Lawson has laid great emphasis on production. As a matter of fact he emphasised the need for production by repeating it three times—Production, Production and Production. I will say Production, more Production and yet more production. But side by side with it I would say, Distribution, equitable distribution and more equitable distribution. Therefore on that point there is no difference between us. I do realise that quite a lot of our trouble is due to the fact that there is shortage of consumer goods and it should be our effort to meet that shortage as far as possible. The controls have been criticised vehemently by my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson and his colleague who has just sat down. The Government, for their part, do not like controls but I am sure my Honourable friend would agree with me that if under the circumstances we were to remove the controls altogether, then the position instead of improving, will certainly become worse.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division, Non-Muhammadian): No, Sir.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend says 'No.' I can assure him that if controls were removed altogether, the poorer classes will not be able to get even the few necessities of life that they are getting today and therefore while we are mindful of the deficiencies in the exercise of the controls, we feel that so long as it is necessary to keep the controls, they must be kept. The real reason for the appointment of this Board is because we found that there was no correlation between the prices of various commodities of various kinds and the Government felt that it was necessary to have a scientific method of stabilisation of prices. It is with that object that we have appointed this Board. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar has paid a well deserved compliment to the Chairman of the Board. We have got one of our first rate officers as Chairman of this Board, who has had experience of controls and of fixation of prices. He is not a judge of the High Court as my Honourable friend Mr. Ranga thinks. The other member of the Board is one of the greatest economists of this country.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor. Non-Muhammadian Rural): May we know his name?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: He is Prof. Gadgil. I am hoping that when the third person is appointed he would be some one who would be interested in agriculture and would meet the demand of my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why not himself?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No, no.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Another suggestion was made by Mr. Lawson and it was supported by other Honourable Members. It was that a Board of three was not large enough to deal with such a big problem. I entirely agree with my Honourable friend and it is the intention of Government that if and when it is considered necessary to add more members to this Board they will certainly do so. But at the present to start with we thought that three would be a sufficient number to carry on the preliminary work of the Board.

I think my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson asked me how the correlation of the prices will be done and what basis will be used to bring these prices together. This is exactly one of the matters and the Board will have to examine how best this could be done.

My Honourable friend asked me whether it will be within the competence of the Board to examine the agricultural prices in relation to industrial prices. I can tell him that it certainly will be, because unless you can examine the prices of all kinds of production, whether agricultural or industrial, and correlate them, you cannot have any stabilisation of prices, and therefore it will certainly be one of the functions of the Board to examine the prices of agricultural produce and co-relate them with the prices of industrial goods.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend made a suggestion that the function of the Commodity Prices Board should not be too rigid. I can assure him that it will not be kept rigid. The Board will be allowed as much freedom as is necessary to carry out the object for which it has been appointed and I would like to point out for the information of Honourable Members that the Board's function is to tender advice to the Government on these matters.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural): What is the price of the Board?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable Friend asks me what the price of the Board is. I take it he means what will be the cost of the Board. I am afraid I will be able to tell him next year if I am here,

3 P. M. because the Board has started only just now and they have not even got all the staff required. At present it is not possible for me to give him the actual cost of the functioning of this Board.

My Honourable friend suggested that the Board should have expert advice in respect of commodities. I am sure, Sir, that the Board will certainly avail itself of any expert advice that would be available to it when it is considering the question of fixing of prices of various commodities. As a matter of fact I am hoping that the Board will examine all these matters in a methodical and scientific manner and their enquiry will not be of a haphazard nature but will be scientific and thorough.

My Honourable friend asked me another question as to how the Government of India will proceed with regard to those matters that concern the provinces. With regard to that I would say that the Government of India can only proceed in dealing with the Provinces according to the machinery of the Government of India Act. And where the Government of India cannot interfere, it seeks the co-operation of the Provinces. I feel that as it will be in the interest of the Provinces themselves that there should be stabilisation of prices, the Provinces would and should co-operate with the Government of India.

Sir, my honourable friend Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad talked at great length about some abstruse economic theories, and I, not being a mathematician like my honourable friend Dr. Zia Uddin, am not able to deal with them because they fall outside the purview of the motion which has been moved before this honourable House.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar has stated that import duties on some of the articles should be suspended for two or three years. This is a matter that has engaged the attention of the Government, but as this question is going to be discussed at an international conference, the Government have decided not to do anything in this direction till the decision of the negotiations of this international conference is known.

I do not think there was any other point which was raised by any of the Honourable Members. The anxiety of the members with regard to this

[Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan] matter is genuine and the Government are as anxious as the Honourable Members of this House to find a way to stabilise the prices of all commodities at a reasonable level. I am glad that the appointment of this Board has received general support of the Honourable Members of this House, and I do hope that this Board will be able to discharge its functions satisfactorily. My honourable friend Mr. Lawson said that the Board has got a Herculean task.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What will be the life of the Board?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: It has been appointed in the first instance for three years.

It is indeed a Herculean task. But we cannot give up tackling any problem because it is difficult. More difficult a problem greater effort should be made to find a solution.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Board appointed in supersession of the other Boards suggested by the Price Stabilisation Committee?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: No other Board has yet been appointed. And let me tell my honourable friend that the appointment of this Board was considered before the report of that Committee was out. Therefore it will be for the Government to consider whether the functions which were supposed to be entrusted to that Board as recommended by that Committee should be entrusted to this Board or whether a separate Board should be appointed. At present this is the Board that has been appointed to deal with all the questions of price fixation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the other recommendations under the consideration of the Government, or are they set aside?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: All the recommendations submitted by that Committee are being considered by the Government, and I have no doubt that the Honourable Member in charge will give very careful consideration to the recommendations that have been made.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Did Hercules himself ever do any such thing?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Not having lived in those days like my honourable friend, I am not in a position to answer that question.

Shri Sri Prakasa: But Hercules does not live even now. Why do you take his name?

Mr. O. P. Lawson: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion? The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 9—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

Inefficiency of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel (Bengal-European): Sir, I rise to move the cut motion standing in my name, namely—

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, the purpose of this cut motion is to discuss the inefficiency of the Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services. I am afraid that discussing the inefficiency of this Department is rather like discussing the weather which is a limited subject and always consists of a comparison as to whether it is hotter this year than it was last year. I would like to assure the Honourable Member in charge of Posts and Telegraphs that it is definitely hotter this year, that is to say in relation to the Department's work inefficiency is greater this year than last. On the subject of their inefficiency, so far as I can see,

there is no considerable difference of opinion between us. If you read the fifteen-year post-war plan of the Posts and Telegraphs Department you will find that there is constant reference to the existing inefficiency of the Services. I do not, therefore, propose to attempt to prove that there is inefficiency by an accumulation of particular instances such as would appeal to certain friends on my left here. What I want to do is to raise a more general discussion as to what are in fact the fundamental causes of the inefficiency of these Services.

Now, Sir, the first thing that must strike one is that in proportion to the bulk of this Department in the varied life of the country and in relation to its resources, the amount of attention, serious consideration and active discussion which it receives on the floor of this House is certainly negligible, almost contemptible. We never have an opportunity to discuss it at all and this year, were it not for this cut motion, the Honourable Member would get away scot free, as far as I can see. Now, I submit that this is a very important aspect. We in this House can only deal with broad issues but in the case of this Department we do not even get an opportunity of dealing with broad issues. May I remind the Honourable Members that the Posts and Telegraphs Department are in a rather different position from most of the other Government departments. They are much more analogous to the Railways. They are a commercial department and they have a very large capital investment. Honourable Members are probably not aware that immediately before the war the capital investment was 17 crores of rupees and that by the end of last financial year it was 32 crores. When the 15-year plan is completed, the capital investment will be nearly 70 crores.

Now, Sir, an investment on this scale should certainly have much closer attention from this House. I heard it suggested this year that the time spent on the Railway Budget should be cut down. Well, I do not know whether that was a little whispering campaign on the part of the Honourable the Railway Member, but certainly, if it was, I think it was a very dangerous one. I think the time spent on the Railway Budget should not be cut down; it should be increased, and I think there is a very good case for putting the Budget of the Communications Department and the Posts and Telegraph services on the same basis as the Railway Budget. It would occupy a great deal more time of the Members of the House. It will be extremely inconvenient to the Honourable Members in charge. It will be very inconvenient to their staffs but I think in the case of a big national commercial investment the time should be found to conduct a closer examination of the issues involved. Now, I make that point because it has got a very direct bearing on the question of efficiency. The Honourable the Finance Member made some remarks in his Budget speech about regionalisation, remarks that have been variously interpreted in various quarters but I personally was very glad indeed to see them, because I have maintained for some time that this country is far too large to be dealt with by a single planning organisation. I think it is too big for a single administrative organisation, if we are to secure efficiency through the pressure of public opinion. That would apply particularly to the Posts and Telegraphs Department. It is very little use my asking a question about the state of affairs in a particular post office. If I go to the Director-General, he says 'I will write a letter and find out'. That is very unsatisfactory. We all know what happens when a subject like Panth Piploda comes up for consideration. How many members of the House know where Panth Piploda is? How many members of this House know where any particular post office is, apart from the main centres? Now, if there were some means by which the pressure of public opinion could be brought to bear in regions rather than over the whole field, then I think we might get a greater degree of efficiency, but at the present time the means by which we can bring our complaints to notice are very very limited and quite inadequate.

[Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel]

Well, Sir, the need for efficiency is not merely engendered by our commercial and industrial needs but also by the taxpayers' need. The Posts and Telegraphs Department is analogous here also to the Railways, for at least for half of the last 20 years it has made no profit. It was fortunate in improving its position just before the war and it has improved its position very well during the war, but here again as I said in the case of the Railways the battle is essentially for solvency and efficiency and, if the battle is lost, it means a further burden on the taxpayer, who is already overburdened today.

I referred to the improvement during the war. It is well to remind Honourable Members that during the war very considerable progress was made in certain directions. I am referring to the Tele-communications Development Scheme which is gradually approaching completion and which has added something like 15 or 16 crores of rupees to the capital investment of the department. I would in particular like to know exactly how that scheme stands now. I observe it is stated in the post-war plan of December, 1945, that the scheme was 3/4th completed. It is stated in the memorandum that was put before the Standing Finance Committee last month that the plan is 4/5th completed. During the war, this scheme has made progress which in comparison with the pre-war rate of progress represents 50 years' development. My friend Dr. Zia Uddin is not here but according to my mathematics the difference between 3/4th and 4/5th is 1/20th and it appears to me, therefore, that between December, 1945, and February 1947, only 1/20th of the scheme has been completed, as compared with 3/4th in the earlier period. That is to say, the department appears to me to be going back to the 50-year peace-time rate of progress.

The Honourable Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar (Member for Communications)
When you climb up a mountain, the pace becomes slower.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: That may be so. But I happen to have looked up the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee of February, 1946. I was looking at the programme of new construction of post offices, and so on, in various places like Quetta, Mirpur Khas, Lahore and so on. I thought the names were familiar and I took the trouble to check with similar statements placed before the Standing Finance Committee in February this year and I find that whereas all these schemes were put down for completion in 1946-47 the same projects are put down in the statements for 1947-48. I have not yet been able to fully master the Government system of finance. It always appears to the layman that the same schemes do go on recurring year after year and I would like to know exactly what the position is. Of course we recognise that there were serious disturbances during the year but none the less when an expenditure of the order of 35 lakhs is put down in the year and so little is apparently completed, an explanation appears to be very necessary.

Well, Sir, coming again to the post-war plan, it strikes me, as a very sound and a very comprehensive plan. We are very much interested in seeing it put into effect and I am very surprised that in the report of the Advisory Planning Board apparently no comment has been made at all on this big departmental scheme. Apparently, the Advisory Planning Board were very much more concerned with industrial development. I think it is unfortunate—I am sorry Mr. Neogy is not here to correct me if I am wrong—that the emphasis should be so much on the industrial side. We have here a comprehensive plan, which, as I said, is going to more than double the capital invested in the Posts and Telegraphs Department and it certainly does appear that it should have commanded more attention from the Advisory Planning Board than it has done. That is an aside, but it is an important point because it shows, what I think is the general tendency, that the work of this Department is disregarded.

Now, Sir, assuming that we all agree about the inefficiency of the Department, I want to try and set down a few of the causes of this inefficiency in the few minutes at my disposal. I would say that the causes might roughly be found under the following heads: lack of leadership, shortage of trained staff, shortage of equipment and lack of system.

Now, lack of leadership is a point that may perhaps strike some Members of the House as unduly sentimental, but it does not, in fact, strike the present personnel of the Department like that. The point is particularly stressed in the Post-War Plan. Now, I am very glad to see that the Honourable Member in charge of the Department has graced this occasion by his presence in this House. We see rather too little of the Honourable Members who sit in another place and I am very glad to see that he has been able to find a place on the front Bench. This is not a bit of joviality or geniality on my part, but I think it is a very serious point. If Honourable Members in charge of the Department do not come to this House or do not themselves answer on behalf of their Departments, the country is unaware of their existence except that it sometimes sees their photographs in the press in various attractive poses, in the cabbage-patch and so on. Now, Sir, it is a very important point, if we are to keep the service together, to make them feel the presence of the Member in charge either by his tours or by broadcasts or by his speeches in this House which are subsequently reported in the press. We all know that the present conditions are radically different from the conditions which hitherto prevailed and we think it highly undesirable that the Secretaries, however able they may be, should be called upon in this House to make speeches in the present political atmosphere and become involved in political matters. That is wrong in principle and we feel most strongly, particularly under present conditions, that the Members themselves should be here. That is one way in which I suggest the lack of leadership can be remedied by the Honourable Member himself coming down to this House and showing us what his ideas are.

Now, as regards the training of staff, this is also dealt with in the 15 year plan and we should like to know very much what is being done to increase the supplies of adequately trained staff. There is an important passage on page 39 of the plan which makes the point I am trying to make about the *esprit de corps* very clear, namely that it depends upon leadership.

Then, Sir, there is the question of shortage of equipment. We wish to know what exactly Government has done to place its orders in good time. As I mentioned before, India was fortunate—and it is a point worth remembering—in being able to increase her capital equipment during the war to the extent I have mentioned, even though that is totally inadequate to meet all needs. I should, however, like to know what the present administration has done or what did the previous administration do in order to get their orders on the order book in good time? That is a most vital question. One rather has the impression that the Departments of the Government of India feel that it does not matter how long it takes them to make up their minds because when they have done so all they have to do is to send a cablegram to X, Y, or Z country and they think they will get their requirements immediately. That is quite wrong. We are anxious to know that, if mistakes were made in the past in the way of unnecessary delay in getting their orders on the order book, adequate steps have been taken to see that those mistakes do not recur. I was surprised to find from a memorandum recently put before the Standing Finance Committee that in the case of the proposals for increasing the capacity of the Madras telephone exchanges orders are only now about to be placed for the necessary equipment. That is a comparatively big scheme, though it is not by any means the largest telephone scheme which is to be carried out, and we find that orders are only about to be placed. It is a pretty certain bet under present world conditions that it will be a matter

[Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel]

of years before these orders can be executed. That also brings me to another point that the post-war plan lays particular stress on, namely, the expansion of demand for the various services which this Department provides. If there is to be a continuing time-lag and if there is to be a steady failure to execute schemes, not merely have we to make up the ground we have lost but we have to face the difficulty of meeting the expansion. I am sure the programme is likely to be very much larger in the end than it is estimated to be now as set out in the official plan. I am supported in that view by the fact that I have seen a memorandum that was placed before the Standing Finance Committee in February considerably enlarging the official scheme as it was published in December 1945. I have the feeling that with the delays that are going on we are steadily going to find ourselves faced with a larger and larger task, if we are to make good the ground lost and also to meet the expansion which the country requires.

Then, Sir, there is another question which arises and I am merely asking it for information as to whether any equipment is available from Disposals. That is a subject on which we know really nothing at all. It is extremely difficult for any one to know what there is and what there is not in Disposals. But I am informed on very reliable authority that there are at least two telegraph lines set up by the Americans in connection with their pipe-lines which are just going to pieces on the ground and they stretch from Calcutta to the northern end of Assam. That seems to the layman most wasteful.

Now, Sir, my fourth point was lack of system. The Honourable Member will remember that I suggested at the last meeting of the Standing Committee that a firm of technical advisers should be called in to advise the Postal Department, in particular, on their system or lack of system. Conditions in the post offices are deplorable and I think only one who is very ignorant of the ways of the country would venture into one and when he sees how the post offices work at the busy hour of the day he will feel as I do that it is like the gates of Hell as one imagines them on the Day of Judgment. So he very hastily turns back and says he will find a peon to send instead. Now there must be something radically wrong when conditions are like this. There are qualified technical advisers who examine and advise on business of this kind. They have done so in the case of other departments of the Government of India and I shall be surprised to learn that the results were not satisfactory. I strongly urge that such technical advisers should be employed in this department also.

Another grievance which I should like to ventilate is as regards the telegraph system. Telegrams are accepted even though the staff know that they cannot send them off by telegraph. They know perfectly well that they are going to despatch the telegram by post. Why should they accept the message and charge the telegraph fee? In commercial language this is called a swindle, whatever it is called in official language. I do not press the Honourable Member to tell us what is the correct official phrase, but anyhow we do not like to be swindled.

Then, Sir there is the question of local manufacture of telephone equipment. That is a subject that has often been raised on the floor of the House. We ourselves support the view expressed in the postwar plan that it would not be an economic proposition to try to manufacture equipment in this country for the automatic telephone system. I would however urge that if the Honourable Member wishes to expand local production, he might divert his attention to the manufacture of air-conditioning plant a considerable quantity of which is required for telephone services and which plant would undoubtedly have a very considerable local market outside the telephone and telegraph services. That would be a possible economic channel for further local development. But we have some doubt as to whether further development is

called for while the old question of the workshops at Alipore, Jubbulpore and Bombay remains unsettled. I hope when the Honourable Member replies to this he will particularly give us an answer to that question and give us an assurance that it is going to be settled soon if not settled already.

This covers all the points that I wanted to make this afternoon. In conclusion I would only say that I was unaware till recently that the Posts and Telegraph Department has a very pretty motto, "Service Before Self". I hope the Honourable Member will succeed in bringing home that motto to his various employees, to those who work under him whether it be in the Secretariat or wherever else they may be. Sir, I move

Mr. President: Cut motion moved

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs 100"

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay European) I move:

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President: There has not been sufficient discussion on this motion and I cannot accept closure. The debate on this Cut Motion has to be finished by quarter to four. So, I propose to call two more speakers, one from the Muslim League party and the other from the Congress Party and I shall give them five minutes each. If necessary, I shall give some more time to the Government Member to reply.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I rise to support this Cut Motion. In doing so, I shall confine myself to some smaller matters that face the public every day. I mean the question of telephones, telegrams and air mail letters. The Honourable Member Mr. Hirtzel has very widely dealt with the major problems. I shall therefore confine myself within the five minutes at my disposal to give a brief account of the grievances which the public have against this department. I am glad that the Honourable Member for Communication Department has taken the trouble to be present in this House this afternoon. It is very gratifying indeed to see him here. I hope he will see that all our grievances are redressed immediately and that the whole system is overhauled. The question of telephones is an old old question. There is a big waiting list for installing new telephones. It is said it is all due to shortage of telephone instruments. There are various grievances connected with this system of service. The subscribers have to pay very high rates. Because telephone service in this country is the monopoly of Government and there is no competitor in the field, the Government perhaps feel that they can deal with the public in a light hearted manner and overlook their grievances. We have to pay very heavy charges for trunk calls. If you book a trunk call, it always happens we have to wait for several hours before getting the required connection. We are always told by the telephone operators, most of whom are always rude to the public, that it would take a long time to get the trunk connection and so we are told to book an urgent call. In this way the public are hoodwinked and more money is taken from the public. This always happens. I submit that the Government should not do profiteering and this should be stopped forthwith. Several times we get wrong numbers. Whenever we dial, fortunately or unfortunately, we get some number where we listen to two persons speaking, sometimes wives are speaking to their boy friends when husbands are away; all these are dangerous things and I hope that the Honourable Member will see that all these inconveniences are put an end to immediately.

Next I should like to refer to the move that is on foot to introduce message rate system whereby we shall be forced to pay one anna extra for every call. This we will have to pay in addition to the monthly rental. I hope the Honourable House will see that this is opposed tooth and nail and I hope Honourable Members will see to it that this proposal to introduce the message system is scotched at the very beginning.

[Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer]

Next I should like to deal with the question of mail delays, so far as air mail is concerned. There is great delay in transmission of air mail letters from one place to another. This has been engaging the attention of the public and the public have been shouting against this delay from housetops. Air Mail letters should be delivered immediately, but nothing seems to have been done. I suggest that mails should be carried by both planes in different directions. I am indeed glad that the Honourable Member has agreed to that proposal and I hope he will put into practice immediately this arrangement whereby posts from one destination to another will be carried by both planes which are being flown from one station to another. Secondly I suggest that letters which go from Delhi by the afternoon plane and reach Bombay the same evening at five o'clock should be arranged to be delivered the same evening in Bombay instead of the next day as it is being done at present. I should also like to point out that the charges for air mail letters from India to U.S.A. are very high. At the present moment, the air mail post from India to U.S.A. is Rs. 1-7-0, whereas from New York to India it is only fourteen annas. I do not see any justification at all for the Government of India to charge a higher rate and do profiteering. Unless I am given satisfactory reply on this point, I will have no hesitation in calling this a profiteering by Government.

The next complaint is about the loss of magazines etc. in post. Very valuable magazines like *Time*, *Life* and other foreign magazines are stolen in transit. I speak this from my own experience. Many times, I have not been receiving my magazines regularly. I am sure the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs has received a complaint this morning from a well known firm of booksellers in Bombay that several *Times* magazines are pilfered in transit, several times wrong magazines are put in. This is the general complaint from many book houses in India. I hope the Honourable Member will see to it that this sort of stealing of magazines is put an end to forthwith.

The next point is about the rates for telegrams. The rates are very high. Sometimes telegrams do not reach their destination at all, sometimes they reach later than letters. I hope the Honourable Member will see to it that telegrams are despatched and delivered earlier than it is being done at present. Every time we go to send a telegram we are told that only urgent telegrams should be sent, as in the case of trunk telephone calls. I hope the Honourable Member will see that efforts are made to have the proper staff and that they are paid properly. The trouble is that these poor people are not paid properly. They should be paid well and paid extra for extra work done. I have brought this to the notice of the Honourable Member in the Standing Committee. I repeat that unless you pay them properly they will not work properly.

Sir, I support the motion.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Ohaudhuri (Assam Valley Non-Muhammadian).

Sir, I rise to oppose this motion and for no other reason than this that some time ago the Honourable Member for this Department himself said in the course of a press statement that his department was quite inefficient and had not been able to reach the efficiency which they had before the war. In these circumstances it is sheer waste of time to make a motion of this kind, when an accused pleads guilty it is no use proceeding with the case against him.

Sir, while criticising the Postal Department for various acts of omission and commission Honourable Members who have preceded me have forgotten to take note of some of the admirable qualities which this department has developed specially after the war. I refer to the consistency and the spirit of determination which the department has shown. I will give some instances. For some time past I have been receiving letters in my quarters in 23 Feroze Shah Road which are addressed to others. I have tried to post them back

again in different letter boxes but with a spirit of admirable consistency these letters have always come back to me. There must be some agency at work which makes these letters sent to different addresses always come back to my place. Then, Sir, I will give an example of their determination. Some time ago I received a letter which was sent by air mail, and it was received two days after another letter posted on the same day by ordinary mail had been received. I wrote to the Postal Department sending the covers of both these letters but I have received no reply, and as a sign of their determination I have had several cases of that kind even till now. As regards this the Honourable Member had himself stated that the air mail was not only delayed but in some circumstances it had been lost. I do not understand how these letters can be lost, I have not heard of any air accident. I can only make one surmise. The air passengers are given periodicals and magazines to read which are sometimes very dull and stale because they had already been read by these passengers. Nothing is more interesting than other people's letters and so I believe these letters are distributed to these passengers to while away their time, and at the end they are not collected properly and that is how they get lost. Otherwise there is no reason why these letters should get lost, because there has been no case of accident, so far as I know.

As for telegrams, even now express telegrams take three more time than before, and as for ordinary telegrams it is better to say nothing because they take more time even than ordinary letters. As regards telephones I will say just one word. So far as trunk calls are concerned in our mofussil towns practically no one gets any benefit out of them. Today the trunk is out of order because of a strong breeze, to-morrow it is out of order because of incessant rain and on a third day it is out of order because of too much frost in Shillong. Then again the trunk is out of order because there has been no rain and no breeze for some time. If a count is taken of the number of days on which the trunk has been out of order between Gauhati and Shillong and between Gauhati and Jorhat in Assam the truth of my statement will be borne out.

Sir, I oppose the motion.

Mr. Krishna Prasada (Government of India Nominated Official) Sir, I am glad that a general discussion on Posts and Telegraphs has been raised because this department is one of the most important public utility departments and we have an opportunity of hearing the views of Honourable Members and of representing our own difficulties. I am in an advantageous position *vis-à-vis* other Honourable Members because this happens to be my maiden speech and I know that I shall have the indulgence of the House.

I have listened with much interest, amusement and profit to what has been said this afternoon. My Honourable friend Mr. Hutzel's speech provided the spear-head of the attack. He has been very charitable, I think, because he is a good Christian. My room in the Western Court where he resides is next door to his and he has been a very good neighbour. His charity, however, combines with a wish for the betterment of the department. Sir, the Posts and Telegraphs Department is a very fortunate department and yet it is very unfortunate in some ways. It is fortunate in as much as it renders a service which is most essential to civilization; without it civilization cannot subsist for very long. This department touches very intimately the common man; the postman is the most welcome and greatly looked-forward-to visitor in every house. The department is however unfortunate because every single lapse on its part is noticed and attracts attention. Of virtuous men it is said that their good deeds live and are remembered and their bad deeds are forgotten. Perhaps the Posts and Telegraphs is not a virtuous department because its good deeds are forgotten and only the bad deeds are recounted. If a letter is delayed in transit or one which is expected does not reach even when it

[Mr. Krishna Prasada]

is not posted, the P & T. Department is blamed. And when it is blamed, the letters which have reached the addressee in time are conveniently forgotten. I wonder, Sir, how many Members of this House have an idea of the volume of traffic that this Department has to handle. The average of personal letters that I post would perhaps be two or three a day, but this Department in the year 1945-46 handled two thousand million postal articles.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: All from one post office?

Mr. Krishna Prasada: From everybody who posted.

As I was saying, the Department handled in the year 1945-46 two thousand million postal articles, sixty-six million money orders, thirty-one million telegrams, four and a half million trunk calls. I admit that the complaints which are made to us are not a correct index of the satisfaction which the public feel in regard to postal articles, but the complaints that we receive are registered and we maintain an account of them. This House will be interested to know that the percentage of complaints received in 1945-46 was 0.15 or, in other words, the complaints were 15 per one lakh of postal articles. In case of telegrams, the percentage was 12 or 120 complaints for one lakh telegrams. Sir, I do not want to take cover behind the fact that this percentage is too small. I admit that the service rendered by the Posts and Telegraphs Department is not as efficient as you and I would like it or as efficient as it used to be before the war. My Honourable friend, Mr. Hirtzel has referred to some of the causes which have occurred to him. His diagnosis is quite correct, and I shall, with your permission, amplify those causes and give some details so as to bring out the difficulties of this Department.

Number one is that there has been vast expansion of traffic. In 1945-46 I will give the percentage of increase as compared to the pre-war figures—there was an increase in the case of postal articles of 60 per cent, in the case of money orders 63 per cent, in the case of telegrams 90.4 per cent, in the case of trunk calls over 100 per cent. The trunk call revenue last year was five times what it was in the year 1938-39. These figures are staggering. We had great difficulty—and I am going to enumerate a few difficulties—in meeting this sudden increase of traffic.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it due to increase of population?

Mr. Krishna Prasada: Partly. We were called upon to increase our staff very considerably. At the end of 1945-46 the increase was, as compared to the pre-war year, of the order of 38 per cent. In certain cadres the increase was very considerable. Our Engineering Supervisors, who have to construct your telegraph and telephone lines, used to be 344 before the war. At the end of last year they were 698—more than double. Class II Engineering Officers, who were 85 before the war, last year were 289—or three-and-a-half times as many. Well, we have increased the staff, but the difficulty has been what has been referred to by my Honourable friend, Mr. Hirtzel. We have not been able to give sufficient training to our staff. In the case of Engineering Officers and the non-gazetted staff, it is most essential that they should be properly trained, if they are not trained, they cannot construct the lines and they cannot maintain them as well as the public expects or we want to do. Out of 350 Supervisors engaged during the war, only 46 we were able to train fully, or only 12½ per cent. This was a most appalling condition. It was not possible—you may ask why did you not train after all, you could open training classes—but, Sir, it was not possible to train the staff because we were confronted with a war and we had to erect lines for the defence of the country. The military wanted them and we had to put our staff through an abbreviated course of training and to rush them through their course. Then, Sir, to add to our difficulties—a very large proportion of our staff is on a temporary basis. Those people know that they are liable to be thrown out and so naturally they have not taken the

same amount of interest as they would have done otherwise. To meet the expansion of traffic and to house the additional staff one requires more accommodation in the shape of additional offices, additional quarters for the staff, additional accommodation in railway trains for parcels and letters, motor vans, equipment, and spare parts. These were almost unobtainable. Last year I visited Calcutta and my visit to the G P O was *incognito*; I stood behind the people and I found that the queues were too long. I wrote to the Postmaster and I also instructed him personally that more offices should be opened in Chive Street from which most of the business came. We tried, and tried, and tried, and we sought the help of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, who of course wanted to help and they did say that they would help, but they were not able to find accommodation. We requested the Bengal Government and we tried through all sources, but we were not able to find accommodation. The difficulty was that we could not pay *pugree* which a man in the street can. There has been difficulty about equipment and spares because they could not be obtained from abroad, and the capacity of our workshops was all directed at turning out material for the defence of the country. Telephones were introduced into this country 66 years ago. The number of telephones at the end of the war were 1,20,000. We have got a very ambitious programme

and our object is to have 1,53,000 new telephones within the next five years. This would mean that the number of telephones during the five years would be double of what it was at the end of this year.

My time is up and I crave your indulgence to sit down. I oppose the motion, Sir.

Mr. President: I am not putting it to the House at all.

DEMAND No. 24—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Labour Policy of the Government of India.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Rs 100."

My object in proposing this motion is to discuss the policy of the Government of India in dealing with the labour problems. The function of a Government in dealing with labour problems is in my judgment twofold. Their first function is to take legislative and executive measures, to raise the level of the conditions of life and work for the working classes so that in a measurable distance of time those conditions could be improved and the working classes brought to the level of equality with the other classes in the country. At least the working classes of this country should be raised to the level of the working classes of the advanced countries. I maintain that the working classes have a right to obtain a position of equality with the other classes in the country, not only in economic matters but also in social and political matters. This, Sir, is the first function of a Government in dealing with their labour problems.

The second function of a Government is under the present economic system, which is capitalistic system, to mediate between the class of employers and their employees so that any differences which may exist between the two may be settled fairly and justly. Sir, the conditions under which the working classes in this country live and work are extremely miserable. Their standard of life is extremely low and the conditions in our country are far behind those which exist in advanced countries. I shall not take much time in detailing those conditions. It will be enough if I say that if we compare the wages of the working classes in India and the wages of the working classes in the United States of America, you will find that the wages in the United States of America are at least ten times as high as the wages in India.

[Mr. N. M. Joshi]

If you take the houses in which the working classes in India have to live and the houses in which the working classes in the United Kingdom live, you will find that in India for one single room there will be at least two families living while in England no working class family generally has less than four to five rooms. In England the working classes are given a fair measure of social security. In India there is absolutely no social security for the working classes. I feel that if these conditions are to be changed, it is the duty of the Government of India to make a plan by which the conditions of the working classes in this country will be improved and will be brought in a measurable distance of time at least to the level of the conditions under which the working classes in advanced countries work and live. The question of making a plan for giving social security to the working classes in this country was discussed in a Tripartite meeting I think about three years ago. The Government of India at that time said that they had no information. I do not know what their department was doing. They appointed a Committee to collect information. That Committee took some time. In my judgment it was too long a time. They made reports. It was thought at that time that the Government of India would appoint a Committee to deal with the planning of social security for the working classes. I heard, Sir, at one time that Professor Beveridge, a wellknown gentleman in England, who planned social security measures in that country, was to be brought here. But as a matter of fact, I found that the Honourable Member and his Department thought that there was no use bringing Professor Beveridge. They themselves were perhaps equally to Professor Beveridge in labour matters. I heard again sometime ago that had made a five-year plan. It is not a plan for five years but a few measures somehow brought together and not a plan carried out promptly and vigorously, in my judgment more than six months. But the Government of India calls it a five-year plan. I shall leave it to the Honourable Member to give the details of his plan. If I say anything he may say that I have misrepresented him. I feel that the Government has not got a plan and if they have a plan, it is extremely inadequate and moreover they are following a method of carrying out of these small measures which cause unnecessary delay and waste of time. I shall give one instance. Take the question of hours of work. Sometime ago they passed a measure dealing with the hours of work in factories. I think they may after some time propose a measure dealing with the hours on railways. After some time they may have another third measure dealing with the hours in mines. Perhaps, after some more time they may deal with the hours of work of dock-workers, and so on. I think this method of dealing with subjects wastes time. It may give credit to the Government of India to say that they have three or four or five measures being discussed in the legislature but I feel it is a waste of time. I therefore suggest to the Government to make a plan which will be adequate and which will make for progress. Let them understand that the world has already advanced much and if we want to catch up with the world within a measurable distance of time we should march much faster than the world, to make up for arrears and catch up with the world. Therefore it would not be enough if we march at the same rate at which the world is marching, because we are behind times and we have to make up the distance of the first lag. I would therefore suggest to the Government to make a plan which will be a complete plan and which will be vigorously pursued and carried out within a measurable period of time.

Then the Government should deal with the question of wages first wages not only as they are proposing in the sweated industries. In India all

industries are sweated. Therefore let the Government of India propose a measure by which workers in all industries will be given living wages.

Similarly I would like, in the first five years the Government to give proper, decent living and working conditions to the workers in all organised industries, such as factories, mines, docks, plantations, motor transport and railways.

Then I would like the Government of India also to take up the question of housing. In my judgment both the Central and provincial Governments are playing with the problem of housing. This question was discussed at a tripartite meeting and a committee was appointed. The committee reported but I am quite sure the Government of India have not yet built even 1000 houses or rooms for the working classes. This is not dealing seriously with the problem and much less solving it. The Government should make a plan which can be carried out within five years for constructing at least decent homes for one million workmen. Then within the next five years another one million will be provided so that within 25 years a fair proportion of the working classes in this country will be properly housed.

Similarly the Government of India should deal with the question of the health of the working classes. They have instituted a measure of health insurance but they are making the same mistake again in dealing with the problem of health insurance. They have a measure dealing with the health insurance of factory workers. Afterwards they will take up the question of the health of mine workers. I would like the Government of India to make a comprehensive plan for health insurance for all industrial workers.

Similarly I would like the Government of India to take up the question of formulating a scheme for unemployment insurance. Unemployment is appearing in this country and a very large number of people are thrown on the streets. We do not know what happens to them. The Government is not tackling the problem at all. I therefore suggest to them that during the first five years let them make enquiries and at least prepare a scheme which will be practicable and which they may be able to carry out after three, four or five years.

I would also like the Government to prepare a scheme of some kind of retirement benefits for the working classes. At present we do not know what happens to a worker in a factory after he is 55 or 60. This state of things cannot last. I therefore suggest to the Government immediately to take on hand the question and make a plan for introducing some system of retirement benefits for the working classes. If the Government makes such a plan and carry it out within the first five years, I think we shall have made some progress, which the workers in the country will appreciate.

Regarding the question of mediation between employers and employees in this country on a basis of fairness and justice to both parties, I do not want to deal with the problem today, because I have dealt with it on a previous occasion. I would now suggest to the Government of India to consider the question of the development of machinery to enable them to deal with the questions of social security for workers. The Government some years ago established a machinery called the Tripartite Labour Conference and the Tripartite Standing Labour Committee. In my judgment that machinery as worked by the Government of India is not at all very strong. It is lacking in personnel and vigour. I would therefore like the Government to take up the question of developing this machinery. I am one of those who feel that a tripartite machinery can do very useful work in planning measures for the uplift of the working classes of this country and for the establishment of social justice and thereby industrial peace in this country. Unfortunately this machinery is not functioning properly. It is not adequate. I would like to

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make a few suggestions to the Honourable Member for developing this machinery.

My first suggestion will be that this machinery should have an independent chairman. I greatly appreciate the fact that the Honourable Minister himself presides over this conference and the meetings of the committee but he must remember that as a member of the Government of India he cannot find time to preside over all the meetings of that conference and of the committee. If he must preside there will always be limitation on the functioning of this organisation. For instance, the I.L.O. conference sits for three weeks. I am sure the Honourable Member would not be able to find the time to preside over a conference for three weeks, which starts at 11 in the morning and goes day after day till 5, 6 or 7 p.m. Therefore it is better that this organisation should have an independent chairman.

My second suggestion is that not only there should be an independent chairman but there should be a Director of high status of this Organisation. For instance, the Director of the I.L.O. is paid a fairly high salary. In the Government of India they have a Director but his salary compared to that of the Director of the I.L.O. would rank him as a fifth or even tenth rate officer. If you want to develop this machinery and work it successfully, vigorously and usefully you should pay the Director a salary equal to that of a Secretary, and he should have the status of a Secretary. I should like this organisation to have sufficient staff. The I.L.O. organisation prepares the documents which are placed before the conference. They prepare reports of the work done, action taken and progress made from time to time. I would also like that the meetings of this organisation should be longer. Sometimes the conference lasts only for a day or two. What can be done in two days time? The I.L.O. conference meets for three weeks and yet it finds it difficult to deal with all the subjects properly. Therefore our conference also should meet for a longer time.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Member, in order to find time to be able to preside over the meetings of these Committees and Conferences is proposing to abolish the Standing Labour Committee. I think he is making a mistake. If there is no time for him to preside over the meetings of the Standing Labour Committee, accept my suggestion that there should be an independent Chairman. It is wrong to abolish the Standing Labour Committee which I am told his Department is proposing to do. The Standing Labour Committee has a very important function to perform. The Conference meets once a year. During the year the Standing Labour Committee can carry on the work of giving effect to the recommendations of the Conference. The Honourable Member's excuse for abolishing the Standing Labour Committee is that he is starting some Industrial Committees. He has started one. This morning he has announced that another is going to be started. But before both these Committees meet he has already abolished the Standing Labour Committee. I feel that it is a mistake and that the Honourable Member will not do it.

My last suggestion to the Government of India is this. The Honourable Member's Department is not strong enough to deal with all the labour problems of this country so that within the measurable period of time the working classes of this country will attain equality with the other classes in this country and with the working classes of the advanced countries of the world. His Department has got a number of officers, but in my judgment that Department is not strong enough. I suggest to the Honourable Member let him have special expert officers for the important items to be dealt with by his Department. I will suggest to him to have an expert on the question

of wages, an expert dealing with the question of housing, another expert dealing with the question of health, still another expert dealing with the question of unemployment, and yet another one dealing with the question of oldage pensions and retirement benefits. I would also suggest to him besides having these experts for different items of work he should have different experts for different industries. There should be one expert for dealing with factories. I am told that his Department has got a Factory Adviser. I am glad that the Department has him. But the Honourable Member should have other experts in the Department, in the Secretariat here, who will deal with the question of mines, with the question of transport industry, with the question of plantations, with the question of agricultural workers. Sir, if he has got a sufficiently large number of expert officers in his Department I have no doubt that there will be much more progress than the Government of India is able to make with the present Department. I hope the Government of India will not mind the expenditure. The money spent on having these officers in the Secretariat who will promote measures for the social welfare of the working classes will not be money wasted. In my judgment it will be money saved. I therefore suggest to the Government of India not to mind the expense which is involved in keeping a sufficient number of expert officers in the Department.

Sir, one more suggestion before I sit down

Mr. President: I have no objection to allow the Honourable Member if other Members have no objection. The Honourable Member has already taken 24 minutes.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: My last point is this. When you have expert officers, give them sufficient power to deal with the subjects which are entrusted to them and do not hamper their activities by what is called the Secretariat control. I am not against Secretariat. I fully realize the need of having a good Secretariat. But the Secretariat has a knack of preventing work being done. The Secretariats of the Government of India know one thing, they know how not to do a thing. I therefore suggest to the Government of India to leave these officers free so that they will make schemes and these schemes may be carried out in practice, so that the working classes in this country will benefit. I feel that the Government of India should give up the present policy which is a policy of inaction, which is a policy which in my judgment is timid and halting. They should adopt a bolder policy, a policy which will lead to the progress of the working classes in this country within a measurable period of time.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100"

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I agree with most of the arguments advanced by my friend Mr. Joshi. But I feel that he is living in the year 1946 and backwards and not in the year 1947. He has not sufficiently advanced. He must realise that in these days everything is decided by counting of heads and show of hands. In every political organisation all over the world labour will always defeat every other party by counting heads. Therefore the government in future will rest with labour and not with the persons who obstruct and stand in the way of the progress of labour. That is the principle in which, whether you like it or not, the world is moving from 1947 onwards. I suggested to him sometime ago—and I think if we adopt this principle most of his troubles will end—that labourers in every industry should be treated as business partners and not as employees of the capitalists. Once this principle is accepted a large number of things which he has suggested will follow as the logical consequence. I think the first thing that has started in the year 1947 is that labour will not allow itself to be treated as the servant of any class of people who

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will be in the minority in every legislature and everywhere. Therefore the majority, which will be labour, will not allow itself to be ruled in their own way by the minority, which is the capitalists. Therefore I beseech that if you really want to have a good atmosphere in the industrial development, then labour should be treated as business partner. Accept this principle and the other things will follow naturally. Everything which Mr. Joshi has suggested will either follow or will be unnecessary because some of the troubles mentioned by him will end if this principle is accepted.

I entirely agree with Mr. Joshi that housing should be treated as an important problem. No factory should be recognised as a factory unless it has sufficient hygienic and comfortable accommodation for every employee—I use the word 'employee' for the time being—or worker in the factory, may be he is the Director or may be he is the last labourer. This should be a condition precedent for the recognition of any factory in this country.

The second thing is that it is not the business of the Government but it is the business of the industries themselves to provide all the amenities for their labourers. I mean education for adults, social clubs and all such facilities are to be provided there. Labour should feel that the factories are their homes and are not jails for indentured labour. This is the atmosphere which we ought to create in every factory. Then and then alone will the atmosphere which Mr. Joshi has in view will be created. He suggested some time ago—I did not follow that part of his speech—and I agree with him and I say now that in every factory an elected representative of labour should sit in the Board of Directors. He must be a Director there. In addition to this one Director, there should be a Director appointed by the Government. It is like the Director appointed by the Secretary of State on the Company-managed railways to act as the watch-dog of the Indian taxpayers. So, he will be the watchdog of the Legislature and the watchdog of those organisations which look after the interests of labour. If you have these two representatives, a representative of the workmen and a representative of the Government, on the Board of Directors, many of the existing evils will disappear. The Companies Act should be amended accordingly in order to secure this object. I understand that this thing is necessary and probably many other things are required which necessitate the amendment of the Companies Act.

The other thing is that these labourers should have a common mess. It may be vegetarian or non-vegetarian. Once or twice a week, the directors, all the high officials and even the managing directors must have meals together, so that they may meet on the same level. If the managing director sits on the 7th Heaven and the labourers on the 1st Heaven or even below the earth, there will not be created the necessary atmosphere which will conduce to harmonious relationship. They should meet as equals and business partners. Subject to the prejudices which are sometimes unavoidable in connection with social societies, there should be a common mess in which all these people should have meals.

The next thing is that if we want our industries to be in a flourishing condition we must have both internal and external markets. For the internal market we must raise the standard of living, increase the purchasing power of the labourers who form the bulk of the population of the country. I go one step further and I do not know whether my friend Mr. Joshi will agree with me. You must not be satisfied only with the internal market. You must also capture the external market. Otherwise the industries will not flourish. In order to capture the external market it is very desirable that the cost of production should be as cheap as possible because most other countries are using machinery and we employ only man power. It is therefore necessary that our workmen should work harder. We ought not to teach them to be lazy, only

to demand facilities and do no work. We must train them to do harder work than they have been doing so far. I am not in favour of 56 hour week or 48 hour week or 42 hour week. I never like a thing of this kind. In a factory everybody must have two months of holidays and it should be open to him either to enjoy the two months on full pay or if he wants to work he must be given double pay for these two months. The factories must be kept going all the year round. There should be no holiday in the factory. We may employ extra staff in order to relieve the men but the factory itself should not be closed even for one minute, consistently with the life of the machinery and other traditions. These labourers should work in the same spirit as the capitalists. We know that the capitalist works up to 2 in the morning in order to close and adjust his accounts. If you want the labourer to be treated as a business partner and give him all the amenities, you must at the same time make him do the work with the same enthusiasm and in the same spirit as the capitalist. If the cost of production goes up, you will not be able to compete with the world markets. As far as the internal market is concerned, we can adjust the thing by means of import and export restrictions but with regard to the external market we must try to make things cheaper. That is the thing which I would like to insist upon.

I entirely agree with my friend in regard to the I.L.O. and other conferences which he mentioned. If you treat labourers as business partners then the necessity for many of these things will disappear or will be minimised. Everything will be solved by the labourers themselves in their own way and the question of adjudication or the interference of the experts will not arise at all.

At the same time there should be frequent conferences between employers and employed, and also the consumers. All these people should be represented, so that we can consider the progress of the movement as a whole. You cannot consider only one aspect, leaving out the others. The consumers are in a majority and yet their interests are always neglected. That is because they are not organised properly. That is a thing which we have got to consider if we want to compete in the world markets and also in the markets inside the country.

If labour is treated as a business partner, then the labourers should work with the same enthusiasm as the capitalist and not insist on working only a particular number of hours a day, it may be 8 or 6. They must be prepared to work longer hours according to the necessities of the moment. This should be the feeling of every labourer in a factory. Only if this feeling is created, can we hope to compete in the world markets and then alone shall we be able to obliterate altogether the differences that now exist between employers and employees. These two words will then disappear from the Webster's dictionary and will have no meaning. With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr. S. Guruswami (Nominated Non-Official). I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi. In doing so, I fully realise that the Honourable the Labour Member has not been long enough in office and I shall not be as harsh towards him as I should otherwise like to be. The social policy of the Government will be judged by its labour policy. Therefore the Member in charge of the Labour Department holds the most responsible position in the Government of India. We expect much from him because he represents a popular Government. Last year I had the honour of moving a cut motion criticising the previous Government for its failings. On that occasion I had the fortune of being supported by the Congress Party. I would like Honourable Members representing the Congress Party to fully support the criticism which I made against the previous Government in regard to its policy or absence of policy in regard to unemployment. The problem that is going to

[Mr. S. Guruswami]

immediately present itself is the problem of unemployment. Due to the war, nearly five million workers got additional employment. Due to post-war conditions, sooner or later there is a threat to the employment of these men. Not only that, industrial workers, who would otherwise have obtained employment, will not have the avenues of employment which would normally have been open to them but for these post-war conditions. In these circumstances, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not emphasise the seriousness of the threat upon employment and urge upon the Labour Member to take active steps to meet that problem before it is too late. In the latter portion of the year 1915 the Labour Department issued circulars to various Departments of the Government asking for information about the probable post-war unemployment that might be caused by the discharges of workers in various Departments. They have constituted Employment Exchanges, but I would like the Labour Member to tell this House what is the exact position of those men who have been thrown out of employment in the post-war period and what are the prospects of employment awaiting them? Dr Zia Uddin Ahmad said that he was against the reduction of working hours. We are for the reduction of working hours and that for a very big principle. Abraham Lincoln said that as long as there are able-bodied men willing to work, but unable to find employment so long the working hours are too long. I want the Labour Member to accept this principle and to promote actively the policy of the reduction of hours so that employment may be shared by all the able-bodied men. That is a point which I would like to emphasise very often because if it is not tackled from now, it will become impossible for the Labour Member to tackle it later on.

Then, Sir, the Labour Member has been responsible for introducing several labour measures, but most of them were formulated by his predecessor. As a Congressman myself, I want to be the supporter of one of his measures for which the Congress itself can take sole credit by promoting a scheme of social security, by providing unemployment insurance, by providing against risk of old age and the death of the bread-winner of family. Unless these steps are taken, labour will not be satisfied. India is going to get freedom next year, but her International status will be judged by the number of the ratifications of the International Labour Conventions undertaken by the Labour Department. Sir, the Government of India is the greatest labour employer in this country. I am glad that there is one good point about the Trade Disputes Bill which might become law very shortly, namely, that it covers workers not only in factories but also in agricultural undertakings and in civil service. I want him to promote joint standing machinery which would deal with problems as and when they arise without causing unnecessary friction between the employer and the employed. There should be well laid down targets which must be achieved within five years.

He has been convening labour conferences, but I am sorry to say that an organisation of the standing of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, which represents a million workers, has not been consulted. I do not know what is the five years plan which is being discussed with the other organisations. But I would request him to consult an organisation like the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and also to consult organisations which deal with plantation labour and also to promote organisation of labour in agricultural undertakings. Under the provisions of the Trade Disputes Bill agricultural workers are also included. It would be good if the Government took active steps to promote a Labour Code like the French Labour Code or the Code which is prevalent in many of the South American States which would lay down the policy regarding the minimum conditions of service that should subsist in a particular industry. I want him also to say another thing, whether he would not modify the factory

legislation to remove the lacuna that has been frequently complained of, namely, what is not being done to dock workers and the port workers under the provisions of the Factories Act. Today thousands of industrial workers, like the dock workers and the port workers, have not got the benefit of the limitation of working hours and other benefits of the Factories Act. I want him not to delay the introduction of necessary legislation for bringing this class of workers within the provisions of the Factories Act and also to provide a proper labour standard for those workers who have been outside. Lastly, I want him again to place before himself the idea that he should within a period of five years promote a comprehensive scheme of social security. This is a thing which even the Tory Governments of other countries have achieved. I know that this Government represents leaders who have suffered for the country and who have sacrificed for the country and therefore it should not lag behind those countries where even the Tories have been able to promote such social legislation. I would therefore appeal to them within the short space that is available to them to promote an active policy of social security and also a policy of increasing the standard of life of the so-called industrial workers and also the agricultural workers and to define a living wage on the principles which are defined in the Australian legislation. The mere introduction of a legislation providing for minimum wages by which nothing is meant is of no use. The objective of the Government should be to promote legislation to secure an equitable standard of living of the workers consistent, of course, with the economic conditions of the country. But that does not mean that they should be made to accept starvation wages when other classes are enjoying luxury. There must be a policy of even a "capital levy in order" to secure for the workers a condition where living wages are attained and where social security is recognised as an integral part of the Government legislation. With these words I support the cut motion that has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, our friends who have spoken have to recognise that it is not only the industrial proletariat who are to be treated as proletariat in this country but there are also various other classes who are obliged to eke out their living both by wage labour and also in cottage industries. I am glad my Honourable friend Mr. Guruswami has this time made a prominent mention of the existence of agricultural labour and I think the House ought to congratulate itself upon having accepted the suggestion of the Government themselves to include labour within the terms of the Industrial Disputes Bill. This is a very great departure indeed and a very happy departure too and I trust that the Government of India will hereafter try to pay as much attention to the needs of agricultural labour as they have done so far to industrial labour. But in addition to industrial as well as cottage industrial workers, we have another very important section of workers and they are the forced labour. Very little attention has so far been paid to their welfare. Recently we have heard that Government were thinking of appointing a Committee to inquire into their conditions, but so far nothing tangible has happened. I want Government to do something very active in this direction.

Coming to agricultural labour again, I wish to suggest to Government that it is their duty, as they have considered it to have been their duty in the past in regard to the industrial proletariat, to try to encourage the organisation of the agricultural labour. They have not been able to organise themselves so well and therefore the Government ought to go out of its way in order to provide necessary steps for their betterment. They ought to go and carry on necessary propaganda amongst the agricultural labour and encourage them to organise themselves. Then, there are the cottage industry workers. In England there is an institution known as Trade Boards. When they were organised, the Government specifically stated that one of the objects with which the Trade Boards were being established was to help those labourers, who

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 were found to be unorganisable, to organise themselves under the auspices of the Trade Boards. Similar institutions will have to be organised and similar efforts will have to be made to encourage our agricultural labour to organise themselves.

A large portion of our cottage industrial workers happen to be wage labourers and today they derive little protection indeed from the Factory Act or from any other labour legislation. The Workmen's Compensation Act and the various other Acts have to be extended to agricultural labour as well as cottage industry workers. At present they have not been extended with the result that they are not able to take advantage of this legislation.

I do suggest that there should be joint standing labour committees, they must be organised not only for organised industries, but also for other industries.

The most important thing is the provision of housing. I should like to warn the Government that whenever they provide housing for labour in this country, they should not confine their attention only to towns and factory labour alone. Agricultural workers in our villages happen to be living in hovels and mud huts and in any scheme of providing housing for labour the first priority should be given to agricultural labour. The Government should set apart funds for providing housing for agricultural labour first. Last year we were told by the Honourable the Finance Member that large sums of money were being set apart in order to encourage provincial governments to provide housing establishment for lower middle classes and also for labour. But we have not been given detailed information at all as to the progress made in that direction. I therefore wish to suggest that whenever the Government spend money at all on improvement of housing conditions for labour, a major portion of it should be spent over villages for the improvement of housing conditions of our agricultural labour and second priority alone should be given to industrial labour.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I may assure my Honourable friend that I am not at all against agricultural labour.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Merely because industrial labour is more vociferous, their needs are better attended to.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I can assure my Honourable friend that I also stand for agricultural labour more than I stand for industrial labour. I can give this assurance straightway.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am glad to have this assurance now. I only wish that my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi took this stand consistently for the past 25 years during which he has been working for labour. He should have taken up the cause of agricultural labour also and in that case, their position would have been much better than it is now. Unfortunately my Honourable friend and other leaders of labour in this country, whenever they talked of labour, they were concentrating more upon industrial labour than upon agricultural labour and my warnings given both here as well as outside in regard to agricultural labour have gone in vain. Fortunately now the National Government has begun to pay some special attention to agricultural labour and therefore I congratulate this Government. Then there is the question of social securities, old age pensions and retirement benefits. I want all these things. The trouble is that these facilities must be provided for all classes of labour. If any priority were to be given, it should be shown to the class of people called agricultural labour and forced labour, not so much to industrial labour. The industrial labour is paid twice or thrice as much as agricultural labour. Nobody pays any attention to the poor agricultural labour at all. Neither the provincial government nor the Central Government did anything for them.

till now. Therefore I suggest when you demand this costly service, for Heaven's sake, be moderate in your demands, and if you grant these benefits to labour, then grant it to all classes of labour in this country and give such standard of social securities to labour so that the Government would not get broke by the heavy expenditure. After all we have got to consider the finances of the country, the funds that are at the disposal of the country. We have now come into our own. We have to get into grips with our finances. We have to find out what is the total amount of money that we might be able to get from the provincial governments and the Central Government for the welfare of labour. Let us first of all consider that. Let us fight to get more and more for labour. Once you get the money, let us see how best we can distribute it in various directions for the social welfare of labour generally. In that also we have to decide which particular class of labouring class or working class should have first priority. If you keep all these considerations in mind, then it will be possible for any one to see this thing in the proper perspective and realise that industrial labour has got to make up its mind to wait a little longer before it can ask for more privileges and in this way industrial labour should help agricultural labour and cottage industrial workers to come to their own.

Chaudhury Sri Chand (Nominated Non-Official) · (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 10th March 1947 English translation given below.—*Ed. of D.*) Sir, my learned Friend Prof. Ranga has made a true statement. In fact no provincial government pays any heed to agricultural labour and, perhaps, the Central Government do not even know that cultivators require labourers or that there are any labourers in the villages and the condition of those who are there. Since the last few months the condition of Agricultural labour has greatly improved. Unfortunately, some persons have made it a means of their livelihood to collect contributions in the name of the Congress or some other body. They go to the villages and incite the farmers, the cultivators and the labourers against one another and these quarrels have all the more deteriorated their condition. I want to draw particular attention of the Government to these people who by false propaganda want to create friction between the cultivators and the labourer in the villages. These men go to these uneducated poor people and collect thousands of rupees in the name of some organization from them. In view of the poverty of these people Government should take immediate steps to safeguard them.

There is another thing to be considered. It has already been said on the floor of the House that after the war a great number of people will be thrown out of employment, and that the Government will have to find work for them. Keeping this in view I want to draw the particular attention of the Government to the fact that in Delhi Province cultivable land of fifteen villages, which is a source of livelihood to the people of those villages, is being acquired throwing nearly twenty-five thousand cultivators and labourers out of employment. They are being given no land in exchange. It is said that the land acquired from them will be converted into a green belt of gardens, etc. Efforts are being made to take land from the villagers for the benefit of the towns people without giving them any land in exchange or making provisions for their livelihood. It is said that they will be employed by the Government and the profit from the produce of the land will be distributed among them and thus they will become rich. So far as my experience goes about the Government Agricultural Farms they are all run at a loss. I have seen no agricultural farm yielding any profit. In view of this Government is deceiving those people by holding out prospects of profit. Thus, they are being ruined. I particularly request the Labour Member not to acquire the lands of the cultivators of Sultanpore and Lailoti, but instead of it acquire the lands of cultivators round Aligunj. The land of 128 villages on Muttra Road may be acquired. Why do you acquire land which is better cultivable. I inform the Labour Member that the

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25,000 people who will be thrown out of employment will swell the number of unemployed after the war.

Now consider a while. People working in factories when come out of their workshops do not appear as coming out of a factory but they look as if they were coming out of a hospital. They look withered and unhealthy. There is no arrangement for the education of their children. We hear everyday that Government of India takes great interest in the welfare of the labourers. These are mere words and no action. Government reach there when there is a strike or any other such thing to order firing at them. They have no place to live in. Some sleep in the factory, and some on the footpath. They work all the day long in the factory. They get no milk, no *ghee*, etc., nor is any heed paid to the education of their children. I request the Labour Member to watch the people coming out of a factory and see their plight with his own eyes. I request that something should be done to better their condition. Increase in their pay and reduction in the hours of working will do them no good if no arrangements are made for the education of their children.

Government must take some immediate steps to stop the efforts of the mischiefmongers in the villages. They should acquire some other lands in the Delhi Province instead of the lands they are planning to acquire because Government have plenty of land.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 11th March, 1947.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 11th March, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

STRIKES IN THE COALFIELDS OF BENGAL AND BIHAR DUE TO LOW WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN UNDERGROUND

828. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state—

(a) whether Government are aware that there have been labour trouble and strikes in the coalfields of Bengal and Bihar due to low wages, and women labour being employed underground;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government in this matter;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government propose to take up a scheme of labour welfare and social insurance, for labour in general, and

(d) if so, the basic improvements that would follow from this scheme of labour welfare and social insurance?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) and (b) For a brief statement of the causes of industrial unrest in the coalfields and of the measures taken to allay this unrest, I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to the question No. 66 put by Babu Ram Narayan Singh on the 5th February. The ban on the working of women underground which was temporarily lifted during the wartime was re-imposed with effect from 1st February 1946. This has nothing to do with the strike situation.

(c) and (d) Government intend promoting a number of measures designed to bring about an improvement in living and working conditions of workers. Some of them will be legislative and others will take the form of agreements between employers and workers. It is difficult to comprise within the form of an answer to a question all the measures that Government intend taking in this direction. If the Honourable Member has in his mind the Health Insurance Scheme, I may state that the Workmen's State Insurance Bill as introduced in this House last November provides for a combined scheme of sickness, disablement and maternity benefit insurance. This scheme is intended to be applied in the first instance to workers in factories using power and employing 20 or more persons. Once a proper administrative machinery is created and is functioning, the intention is to extend the scheme of insurance to as many categories of workers as possible.

Seth Govind Das: As the Honourable Member has said that it is difficult for him to give a comprehensive reply about the welfare measures which the Government is intending to take in this respect, will the Honourable Member be able to make any comprehensive statement in the near future as far as these measures are concerned?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I may be making a statement—it may not be a comprehensive statement—in reply to the cut motion which is already before the House.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member aware that women continue to be employed underground in coal mines in certain Indian States?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am not definite on that point, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member make enquiries into that matter, and find out how the Indian States stand in regard to this question having regard to the fact that the restriction is the result of an International Convention?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will ascertain

AMENDMENT OF AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE RULES

829. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently amended the Auditor's Certificate Rules 1932, to reduce the period of article clerkship for the Registered Accountancy Course from four to three years in the case of Commerce graduates and such other graduates as have secured 60 per cent of the aggregate marks in their degree examination,

(b) whether it is a fact that the amended rule places M.A.'s and Honours graduates on a par with B.A. (Pass) graduates who will all have to undergo four years course of article clerkship,

(c) whether Government are aware that the courses prescribed for Honours and M.A. Examinations are more advanced and the standards of valuation of papers higher than those for the ordinary B.A. (Pass),

(d) whether Government are aware of the discontent felt by M.A.'s and Honours graduates in the matter,

(e) whether their attention has been drawn to a letter of protest against the amended rule which appeared in "The Registered Accountant" of July 1946;

(f) whether Government have received any other representation against the amended rule; and

(g) whether they propose to consider the desirability of removing this grievance of M.A.'s and Honours Graduates? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Yes

(b) Yes Under the amended rule 36 of the Auditor's Certificates Rules, 1932, all persons, who have passed a Degree Examination, will be required to undergo four years' practical training, except those who have passed the Degree Examination with Accounting, Auditing and Mercantile or Commercial Law, or obtained at least 60 per cent. of the total marks in the examination.

(c) Yes.

(d) No, the M.A.'s and Honours graduates have always been placed on a par with ordinary graduates in so far as the duration of articles is concerned.

(e) and (f). No protests have been received. Suggestions from certain individuals to the effect that the concession should also be allowed to M.A.'s and Honours graduates were received after the amendment was published in the *Gazette of India* for criticism. These suggestions were not accepted as it was felt by Government that first class graduates and those who had passed the Degree Examination with Accounting, Auditing and Mercantile or Commercial Law were better equipped to pick up practical work than ordinary M.A.'s or Honours graduates.

(g) For the reasons already given it is not considered desirable to re-open the question.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know if in the representations he has received, these M.A. gentlemen ask for more money for themselves or if they are a bit that B.A.'s should be paid less?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There is no question of M.A.'s and B.A.'s wanting money. The question is that if a man wants to be trained as a Registered Accountant, he has to undergo apprenticeship or training with a certain Registered Accountant. That period of training normally is four years, but in certain special cases mentioned here, namely in case of those who have taken a course in Accountancy, Audit or Commercial Law, they are given an exemption for one year. So, they undergo training for three years.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO U. N. R. R. A. FOR RELIEF WORK AND COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF ITS INDIAN STAFF

830. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state what contribution for relief work has been made by the Government of India to the United Nations Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Association during the year 1946-47?

(b) Is any amount likely to be contributed by India for the year 1947-48?

(c) What is the total strength of the staff of the United Nations Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Association?

(d) How many of these are Indian nationals, Muslims and non-Muslims?

(e) What are their salaries and allowances?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) No fresh contribution was made, but expenditure was incurred during the year against the original contribution of rupees eight crores.

(b) No.

(c) 17,572 (as on 31st December, 1946)

(d) 33 Indian nationals of whom three are Muslims and 30 non-Muslims

(e) A statement is laid on the table

Serial No.	Positions	Salary per annum	Community
		Rs. per annum.	
1	Director and Liaison Officer (New Delhi Office).	24,550	Sikh.
2	Regional Medical Officer	22,850	Hindu.
3	Regional Chief Economic Analyst and Information Officer.	20,150	Indian Christian.
4	Economic Analyst and Information Officer.	19,250	Hindu.
5	Industrial Rehabilitation Officer	18,750	Do.
6	Accountant, Grade II	16,950	Do.
7	Finance officer	15,200	Do.
8	Field Accountant	15,200	Indian Christian.
9	Accountant Grade 9	12,800	Hindu.

Serial No.	Positions	Salary per annum	Community
		Rs. per annum	
10	Accountant Grade 9	12,550	Hindu.
11	Camp Welfare Officer in Italy	11,700	Ditto.
12	Auditor	10,350	Indian Christian.
13	Assistant Procurement Officer	9,922	Hindu.
14	Junior Accountant	8,600	Sikh.
15	Ditto	8,600	Hindu.
16	Assistant Depot Master	8,150	Muslim.
17	Administrative Assistant	7,708	Hindu.
18	Secretary	6,075	Anglo-Indian.
19	Administrative Assistant	5,930	Hindu.
20	Secretary	5,950	Indian Christian.
21	Ditto	5,930	Hindu.
22	Stenographer	5,930	Ditto.
23	Accounts General Assistant	5,670	Ditto.
24	Stenographer	4,904	Ditto.
25	Typist	2,835	Ditto.
26	Ditto	2,520	Ditto.
27	Messenger	756	Muslim.
28	Ditto	756	Hindu.
29	Sweeper	252	Ditto.
30	Driver	945	Muslim.
31	Reports Officer in Washington	10,620	Hindu.
32	Information as to the exact salaries and designations of 2 persons in Italy is awaited.	..	Hindus.
33			

N.B.—(1) The living allowances for China and USA are as follows:—

China CNC 26,000 per day or about Rs. 26.

U. S. A. U.S. \$6.00 per day.

(2) The Administration has a Provident Fund the employees contributing 5% and the employer 7½%. An employee becomes eligible for the Administration's contribution after he has completed six months service, but he does not have any share in the interest accrued to the Fund.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell this House that if three crores contribution was made by India in a year of distress for the relief of others, whether this country received anything from any part of the world for the relief of the food crisis through which we were passing?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Several questions were asked on this point and when a motion was placed before the House for discussion as to whether a further contribution of two crores should be made to U. N. R. R. A., the little assistance that we received from the other countries was mentioned in my speech. Beyond that, we have received nothing.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of this experience of India that in our distress nobody comes to our help, will Government now examine the policy of hesitation with regard any such request for international help which may be asked in future, because charity must begin at home?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question is always examined from all points of view and this will certainly be one of them.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member give us an idea as to what this Association is doing for India as such besides giving a few jobs to its nationals?

Mr. Manu Subedar: India is not eligible.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: This Organisation was for the relief and rehabilitation of the countries occupied by the enemy.

TEMPORARY HUTMENTS AND BUILDINGS IN NEW DELHI

831. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary for Works, Mines and Power Department please state the number of temporary hutments and buildings of brick erected for war purposes in New Delhi within a circumference of four miles from the Council House?

(b) How many of these are lying vacant and since when?

(c) Are these going to be demolished? If so, when? If not, why not?

(d) What is the area of land occupied by these structures?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) and (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) The following buildings are lying vacant for the last few months with the exception of the last building which was vacated by Defence Department only on 1st March 1947:—

- (i) Barracks in 32 Ferozeshah Road
- (ii) Censor Office building.
- (iii) Officers' Transit Mess in Travancore House.
- (iv) WAC(I) Hostel in Ferozeshah Road.

(c) There is no proposal to demolish any of these buildings unless and until any of them become surplus to requirements, or the sites on which they stand are required for permanent construction, or the cost of repairs and maintenance becomes prohibitive or because of any other commitment which makes it obligatory on Government to demolish that building.

List of Temporary Buildings Constructed within a Circumference of 4 miles from Council Chamber

Name of the building	Area of the land occupied by the building	
1. R. A. F. Signals Communications Centre, 'Q' Block	61,100	Sq. ft.
2. 'F' Block	154,125	Ditto

Name of the building	Area of the land occupied by the building	
3. 'H' Block	}	64,720 Sq. ft.
4. 'J' Block		
5. 'K' Block		134,547 Ditto
6. M. T. Section Store Room & RAF Tiffin Room		33,258 Ditto
7. W. A. C. (I) Hostel, Sikandra Road		98,580 Ditto
8. Metropolitan Lines		30,000 Ditto
9. W. A. C. (I) Hostel, Farzeshah Road		98,580 Ditto
10. (i) B. O. Rs. Block at Irwin Stadium (ii) Dining and Kitchen H. H. for B.O.R. at Irwin Stadium (iii) W. A. C. (I) Hostel, Irwin Stadium (iv) Servant quarters and L. times attached with B. O. Rs. Barrack at Irwin Stadium (v) Guard Room at Irwin Stadium (vi) Insulate Bldgs. for B. O. Rs. at Stadium.	}	250,018 Ditto
11. Trade Testing School, Cornhill Road		16,000 Ditto
12. GHQ Bus Stand at Sarsah Road, New Delhi		14,000 Ditto
13. Censor's Office		16,080 Ditto
14. 'L' Block } 15. 'M' Block }		82,000 Ditto
16. GHQ Transport Coy. Office accommodation North of North Block		63,000 Ditto
17. 'P' Block		154,976 Ditto
18. Officers' Tiffin Room 'P' Block		2,054 Ditto
19. Hindu & Muslim Tiffin Room		2,471 Ditto
20. GHQ Signals Bldg. at Plot No. 115		100,000 Ditto
21. GHQ Barracks in Plot No. 108		7,040 Ditto
22. GHQ Transport Coy. in Plot No. 108		7,666 Ditto
23. GHQ Barracks in Block No. 121		42,159 Ditto
24. GHQ Barracks in Block No. 118		60,854 Ditto
25. GHQ Signals Block No. 119		11,172 Ditto
26. Block No. C1 } 27. Block No. C2 }		84,217 Ditto
28. Auto Control Centre		9,544 Ditto
29. Security Police Barracks		20,556 Ditto
30. Kashmir House 'D' Block		144,235 Ditto
31. 'E' Block		68,768 Ditto
32. Block 36 (Civil)		19,040 Ditto
33. Block G (Excluding RAF)		48,745 Ditto

Name of the building	Area of the land occupied by the building	
34. Block A	33,689	Sq. ft.
35. Block B	70,154	Ditto
36. GHQ Army Post Office	25,942	Ditto
37. GHQ Cinema	1,152	Ditto
38. Officers' B. O. R. Tiffin Room	6,465	Ditto
39. M. I. Room in Block No. 37	6,804	Ditto
40. King Edward Road Mess (160 Officers)	297,136	Ditto
41. 4, 6, 8 Aurangzeb Road Mess	130,386	Ditto
42. Queen Victoria Road Mess (232 Officers)	116,000	Ditto
43. S. S. Road Mess (120 Officers)	120,600	Ditto
44. Wellesley Road Mess (90 Officers)	98,000	Ditto
45. Wireless Village, Ridge	67,685	Ditto
46. Government Quarters in the Compound of Tibbia College Hostel (292 single and married clerks).	132,000	Ditto
47. Temporary Barracks on Parliament Street	7.70	Acres
48. Temporary Barracks on Gurdwara Road	4.50	Ditto
49. U. S. Chapel on Parliament Street	.90	Ditto
50. Theatre Communications Building, Connaught Place	3.56	Ditto
51. Barracks on Queen-way	44.00	Ditto
52. Headquarters Buildings, Connaught Place	3.70	Ditto
53. Top Officers' Quarters on Queen-way.	5.82	Ditto
54. Kooling Road Hospital		
55. Servants' Quarters.		
56. 1688 Enlisted Men's Barracks on Curzon Road	11.58	Ditto
57. 298 Officers' quarters on Curzon Road	13.30	Ditto
58. 500 Officers' quarters on Queensway	9.60	Ditto
59. 5 tons Ice Plant at Canning Lane	1.71	Ditto
60. Motor Pool at Canning Lane	1.30	Ditto
61. Wellington Barracks on Kutab Road	4.00	Ditto
62. 200 Beds American Hospital on Kutab Road	24.99	Ditto
63. American Ware House on Factory Road	31.52	Ditto
64. American Transmitting Station at Safdar Jung	22.68	Ditto
65. USA Receiving Station at Ridge	1.00	Ditto
66. Technical Trainees Camp at Bella Road	18.89	Ditto

Name of the building	Area of the land occupied by the building	
67. FEB Hostels at Curzon Road and Mansingh Road } 68. All India Radio Hostels at Curzon Road.	10	acres
69. Temporary offices, Cement Godowns, shops Dispensary Patent Wards and Ambulance Garage, New Delhi (Lodi Road).	1.50	Do.
70. Jodhpur Mess	106,950	Sq. ft.
71. Transit Mess and Hutments in Travancore House	82,721	Do.
72. Singh and Princes Park Mess	290,400	Do.
73. Petaudi House (Hutments)	97,176	Do.
74. Mandi House (Hutments)	70,308	Do.
75. Married Officers' Hutments (243 Nos.)	6,018,944	Do.
76. Supply Offices, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi	970,200	Do.
77. Office Buildings on Jamnagar & Bharatpur Plots	580,948	Do.
78. Akbar Road Hutments	138,160	Do.
79. Jaipur House Hutments	41,764	Do.
80. Kotla House Hutments	39,840	Do.
81. Mansingh Road Hutments	9,384	Do.
82. 60 Servants' Quarters	9,000	Do.
83. 'N' Block 84. Security Police Barracks. }	79,330	Do.
85. Race Course Camp	292,984	Do.
86. Dispensary and Garage in front of North Block	2,170	Do.
87. New Wellington Camp	158,560	Do.
88. Old Wellington Camp	158,942	Do.
89. Lodi Road Mess	75,976	Do.
90. 109 Officers' Shop—South Block	13,482	Do.
91. Temporary office Buildings in North and South Blocks	12,420	Do.
92. Workshop for I.T.B.	9,588	Do.
93. Garages for mechanized vehicles.	17,108	Do.
94. Broadcasting House Hutments	12,203	Do.
95. Married B. O. Rs. Barracks on Factory Road	123,264	Do.
96. Single clerks' Quarters on Kitchener Road (500 quarters for 1,000 clerks).	Not readily available.	
97. GHQ Transport Company, North Avenue	16,763	Sq. ft.
98. Extension to M Block and Church Road Hutments	93,900	Do.
99. Barracks in 32 Ferozshah Road	Not readily available.	

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that many Members of this House want to construct their own bungalows in Delhi, because the present ones are rather small, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of demolishing the WAC(I) Hostel, which is now lying vacant, and making available that land either for lease or for sale to the Members of this House, so that Members of this House may be able to build their own bungalows?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The WAC(I) Hostel was handed over to us only ten days ago. We are considering the question of utilising the building. But the land belongs to the Anjuman-i-Taraqui-Urdu and we have to carry on negotiations to find out if we can retain that land. If we can do so, I expect that Government officers themselves will need all the accommodation which is available there. The question of building sites for private persons is quite a distinct matter and it is separate from the question of accommodation for Government servants. If my Honourable friend wants a building site to build his own house, there are other sites allotted and he may approach the Chief Commissioner who deals with applications from private individuals for building sites.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Apart from the particular building in question, will the Honourable Member give an assurance to this House that no buildings will be demolished in Delhi until new building work has started and can accommodate people and that all these buildings which are thus vacated would be brought into use for human habitation, not merely for officials but partly also for non-officials, as soon as possible?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I have already stated the four circumstances in which alone the buildings will be demolished. Ordinarily they will not be demolished and they are being utilised both for officials and partly also, to a certain extent, for non-officials. In fact, we have to accommodate a number of press correspondents and other people who are non-officials in some of these buildings. Every effort is being made to utilise the accommodation available to the best possible advantage.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that preference generally is given not to non-officials but to officials as far as these buildings are concerned?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir. The buildings were constructed for officials and preference is definitely given to them.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that the Chief Commissioner of Delhi has refused to give any land to the Members of this House, because none is available, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of making available the site (32 Ferozeshah Road) where the barracks are now located and which I am sure will be demolished?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: 32 Ferozeshah Road belongs to a private individual. It is a private building which was taken over by the Americans, probably as a result of a private agreement. Then they constructed two temporary buildings on that land. Now that the Americans have vacated it, negotiations are going on with the private owner whether we can do anything with these two buildings. The land does not belong to the Government and Government cannot make it available to anybody.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know whether the Government has got any expert advice from their engineering Department as to the life of these buildings?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The life of the building will depend upon each particular building. But, generally speaking, the semi-permanent structures which were constructed in wartime with timber and other materials of rather flimsy nature are expected to have a life of about three to four years. That is the expert opinion of the Public Works Department.

Shri Sri Prakasa: More than three or four years have passed since the buildings were constructed. May I know why they have not yet fallen?

Mr. President: Next question

PROSPECTING LICENCES AND MINERAL LEASES

832. *Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state

(a) the number of (i) prospecting licences, and (ii) mineral leases subsisting in this country in respect of various minerals,

(b) whether the obligations to work these concessions involved in the terms of such (i) prospecting licences, and (ii) mineral leases, are being carried out; and

(c) the steps that Government propose to take in those cases where the licensees or lessees have failed to fulfil their obligations to produce to the extent indicated in the terms given to them?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) A Review of the Mineral Industries of India and Burma during 1939 was published by the Director Geological Survey of India in 1941. Complete information showing the present position is not available.

(b) and (c) The responsibility for working the Mining Concession Rules rests on the Provincial Governments and Administrations concerned. It is for these Administrations to take suitable action where the obligations to work the concessions under prospecting licences and mineral lease are not being carried out. The question of revising the Rules governing Mining Concessions is now under consideration.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that certain big corporations, particularly in oil, have secured various concessions which they are not working and is it a fact that they have secured these concessions, in a way, to shut out other people from securing them? If that is so, from the point of view of the community, production which is very badly needed being reduced, will Government take some steps from the Centre to enquire from the provinces whether there are any such cases and then formulate some kind of common policy?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: This question was very fully discussed at the Mineral Conference which was convened last month and the matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the rich mineral resources of the Central Provinces, is it a fact that in the last conference it was pressed by the C. P. Ministers on the Government of India to help the province, so that early steps may be taken to exploit the mineral resources of the province?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Will the Honorable Member please repeat his question?

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that there are great mineral resources in C. P., is it a fact that at the last conference the ministers of the Central Provinces pressed upon the Government of India to give such help to the province as would enable it to develop its mineral resources?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Every province was anxious to be given priority.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that the C. P. has richer mineral resources than any other province in India they urged upon the Government of India the need for their help?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Every province has

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maatra: Have the Government of India in the department of geological Survey any hand in the grant of prospecting licenses?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The executive action lies entirely with the Provincial Government concerned.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Does it mean that the Government of India, in the Geological Survey Department has not got any definite policy with regard to the development of the mineral resources of the country?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The Geological Survey Department is certainly a Central Government Department and we have a policy for expanding that department. We have a five year plan for a large scale expansion of the Geological Survey. The Geological Survey actually surveys the whole country and finds out the occurrence of minerals. The question of development of the mineral resources is, however, entirely a provincial subject and there the Government of India have no hand in the matter. The whole question was discussed at the last Mineral Conference and the matter is now engaging the attention of Government.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: For purposes of coordination and correlation of the development activities of this country have the Government of India no hand in the issue of licenses?

Mr. President: For purposes of prospecting?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Yes.

Mr. President: The answer is clear. It is the responsibility of the provincial government concerned.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I want to know whether the Government of India have any hand in the issue of prospecting licenses?

Mr. President: This was already replied to. The matter is entirely provincial.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the recommendations of the Conference which met during the last month?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The proceedings I believe were laid on the table of the House but I can give the Honourable Member a copy. It is a lengthy document and I could not briefly summarise the recommendations here.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Were the proceedings of this conference placed before the Standing Committee of this House in connection with his Department?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I do not think so. I do not think there has been a meeting of the Standing Committee since but I believe the proceedings were laid on the table of this House.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it a fact that in the granting of these licenses the Central Government is not even consulted by either the provincial governments or even the States?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir.

GEOLOGISTS AND METALLURGISTS IN THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

833. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state what is the total number of persons working in the Geological Survey of India?

(b) How many are Indians and how many are foreigners?

(c) What steps are Government taking in order to increase the number so as to be able to deal with the task of closer survey of the country's mineral resources?

(d) Is it a fact that young graduates, including those from the Dhanbad School of Mines, are not being taken in large numbers to assist in field work and to acquire practical experience?

(e) Have Government laid down a definite policy for increasing the number of competent men, both as working geologists and metallurgists?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) The total number is 360 which includes 71 Gazetted officers and 289 non-gazetted officers.

(b) 353 Indians and seven others

(c) The Geological Survey of India is being expanded as rapidly as possible. Before the war, the number of Gazetted officers was 27. It is now 71 and further expansion is contemplated in the next few years. Attention is also invited to the reply to part (c) of this question.

(d) No, Sir. The difficulty is to get a sufficiently large number of recruits with minimum qualifications.

(e) As regards Geologists, Government recently appointed a Committee to make recommendations with regard to the improvement of Geological Education in India. The Committee has submitted its report and its recommendations are being carefully examined. Government have also appointed a committee to make recommendations with regard to the reorganisation and expansion of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad which imparts instruction in Geology and in Mining Engineering.

As regards metallurgists, the Sibpur Engineering College and the Benares Hindu University offer facilities for training in metallurgy. Their present output of trained students is 27 per year. It is expected to increase this number by about 100 per cent. by 1950. There is a proposal to set up two Higher Technical Institutions and when they are set up they will be producing about 40 metallurgists per year.

Government are further granting Scholarships to Indian students for overseas studies in Geology and Metallurgy. On their return they will be available for employment under Government or in mining and metallurgical industries.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to field work, it has been reported to us that Indians are kept out on the plea that they do not hold the necessary qualification. May I therefore enquire whether the qualification of Dhanbad degree is not adequate qualification for doing field work, which is after all merely assisting the senior man who is doing the work? If that is so, why are not Dhanbad graduates put to field work which is the most important part of the work?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: As far as I know, we are trying to recruit as many people with minimum qualifications as possible. Now, minimum qualification naturally varies with the kind of appointment. Senior appointments are made through the Federal Public Service Commissions; other appointments are made by the Director of Geological Survey of India. As I said in my reply, out of 360 officers, 353 are Indians and only seven are others. It cannot be said that Indians are being kept out.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The allegation that I heard definitely was that Indians are being kept out of field work which is a very important ground for gaining experience and if Dhanbad graduates are adequate with minimum qualifications why are not Government expanding the number of gazetted officers and what are the instructions of Government to the Public Works Department with regard to minimum qualifications put down? Surely these instructions must have gone from Government to the Public Service Commission who are merely working the qualifications as defined by Government?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The qualifications of superior officers are a good degree in mining or geology; for field work the qualifications are slightly lower, but I will enquire into the matter and tell my Honourable friend. I personally know nothing about it. My information is that every possible effort is made to recruit these people. I might also add that Government recently sanctioned certain scholarships for further training in metallurgy and other things to these

Dhanbad people and although the stipend or scholarship is Rs. 100 a month, not a single candidate appeared. It seems that Dhanbad graduates are just snapped up by the industries generally.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Out of 71 gazetted officers, how many are Muslims?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I want notice

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government taking any steps to provide suitable employment to those government scholarship holders who have been sent abroad and who have qualified themselves in higher studies in metallurgy?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That is a question for the Education Department. But I believe that point is always kept in view before sending scholars abroad.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am asking the question of finding employment for them?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That is the whole question attended to by Education Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: After the last war similar scholars who have been sent abroad at Government expense and who returned after qualifying themselves had to remain unemployed for a number of years wasting their time, because Government would not provide them with suitable employment?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I do not know what happen after the last war. I know this time things will be better managed.

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN OFFICERS WITH NON-INDIANS IN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

834. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state how many men are now outside the country qualifying themselves either as geologists or as metallurgists, and how many of them are assisted from Government funds?

(b) Do Government propose to give an assurance that for every piece of work in connection with geological survey undertaken by a non-Indian officer, an Indian officer will invariably be associated?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) The number of students sent outside India by Government is 22 for Metallurgy, 18 for Geology and three for Geophysics. In addition, five students have been selected for Metallurgy, four for Geophysics and one for Geology who have not yet left the country. The number of students outside India on their own is not known. All the students sent by Government are being assisted either by the Central or Provincial Government or by both.

(b) There are now only five non-Indian Field Officers in the Geological Survey of India and Indian Officers are closely associated with their work.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the nature of assistance which the Government of India are providing to non-scholar Indians who are there abroad studying metallurgy at their own expense?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That question might be addressed to the Education Department.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Are any conditions attached to the grant of scholarship?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The usual conditions that are attached to scholarships granted by the Education Department governing overseas scholarships.

PROPOSED BUREAU OF MINES.

835. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state what is going to be the constitution of the Bureau of Mines which is proposed to be set up?

(b) How will it be linked with the Provinces and the States and have Government considered the question of having an Advisory Board attached to it?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) and (b) The question of establishment of a Bureau of Mines is under the consideration of Government. The other points raised are also under consideration.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Government examine the possibility of some kind of central co-ordination voluntarily on the part of States and Provinces with regard to the rules, royalties, rate of concessions and also with regard to the use of statutory Government of India officials by States and Provinces? Will the Government of India examine this also while they are considering the matter?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir. That point is always under examination. The last Mineral conference was definitely an attempt at co-ordination between the Central Government, the Provincial Governments and the States. This question was thoroughly discussed at the Mineral conference and it is being actively pursued how exactly co-ordination is to be effected in the present constitutional uncertainty. Government are closely examining the question. As regards the States, I might add that there is one senior Indian officer of the Geological Survey of India who has been specially appointed to look into the geology of States and help them in their investigation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government any arrangement by which a State can avail itself of the services of senior officials of the Geological department and are any States taking advantage of this arrangement?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir. One senior officer of the Geological survey has been specially earmarked for helping the States and a number of States are taking advantage of his service. He is in fact very busy with the States now.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that even some of the provinces in India have not been fully surveyed and certainly most of the States are very imperfectly surveyed, will Government see that a complete survey of the country is done as early as possible?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That is always the aim of Government. But we are very much handicapped by want of staff. It will take six many years before a complete survey of the geological possibilities of the whole country is completed.

REPARATIONS SANCTIONED FOR INDIA BY THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION.

833. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state.

(a) the amount of reparations which have been sanctioned by the United Nations Organization for India;

(b) whether a list of properties available as reparations was received by Government,

(c) the authority that made the selection of properties of different enemy countries that were allotted to this country as *reparation*,

(d) whether Government have been able to get those properties, if so, what they are;

(e) if Government have not yet got those properties, when they expect to get them,

(f) how Government propose utilising those properties,

(g) whether Government propose allotting those properties to different Provinces or whether they propose reserving them for Central administrative needs;

(h) whether Government propose circulating a list of those properties to the Provincial Governments and consulting their needs; and

(i) whether Government propose to appoint a committee of Industrialists to inspect those properties and give their advice regarding the use and disposal of those properties?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Reparations are being exacted from Germany and Japan. So far as Germany is concerned division of reparation among claimant countries was decided by the Paris Conference and the decisions were embodied in the Paris Agreement. In terms of that Agreement India is entitled to receive two per cent of general reparations called category 'A' and 2.9 per cent of Industrial and other capital equipment called category 'B'. The question of Japanese reparations is still under discussion in the Far Eastern Commission at Washington on which India is represented.

(b), (d) and (e) The allocation of German reparations to claimant countries has been entrusted to the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency which has been set up at Brussels in pursuance of the Paris Agreement. India is represented on the Agency by a Delegate and an Alternate. So far, three lists of German plants have been received from the Agency and bids have been made by Government for 19 plants. India's bids for nine of the 19 plants have been considered by the Agency and two plants and some machines out of a third plant have been allocated to India. Arrangements are being made for their transportation to India and it is expected that they will arrive in India in a couple of months or so. Bids in respect of the remaining ten plants are still under consideration of the Agency.

(c) When the list of properties is received the list or abstracts from it are circulated to the Chambers of Commerce and to the appropriate Industrial Associations. On the basis of the replies received and after considering the advice of their technical officers and purchase officers and the reports of the Industrial Panels set up by the late Planning and Development Department, decisions are taken by Government on whether to bid for a particular plant or not. The general aim is to secure for India those plants which utilized as single units or divided and allotted to existing factories are best calculated to advance the Industrial development of the country.

(f) and (g) It is proposed to utilise the plants allocated to India to the best interests of the country. Government have not laid down any definite policy regarding the disposal of the plants but their intention is to allot the entire plants or parts thereof to private industries which are most suited to utilise them for the benefit of India as a whole. If a plant or part of it is required for use for any Government sponsored industrial scheme such plant or part thereof may be retained by Government for that scheme.

(h) Lists of plants declared available for reparations delivery are circulated to Provincial Governments and suggestions made by those Governments are taken into consideration in selecting plants to be bid for.

(i) When a Government bids for a plant that Government is committed to taking the plant though up to ten per cent. of the machinery may be rejected on account of obsolescence or damage. Missions of not more than four experts at a time are allowed to inspect the plant, to advise on dismantling, packing, the preparation of inventories and the rejection of machines and to receive the technical data regarding the operation of the plant. This is work for technical experts and not industrialists. Technical experts of the Government of India are being attached to the Inter Allied Reparation Agency to deal with this work. Where a plant calls for more highly specialised technical advice Government propose to utilize the services of consulting engineers who will not only supervise the dismantling but will be prepared to undertake the re-erection of the plant in India if so required. If the plant can be allotted to an industrialist before dismantling begins that industrialist will be allowed to appoint his own consultants. Otherwise the consultants employed will be appointed by the India Supply Commission on behalf of the Government of India.

The Inter-Allied Reparation Agency attaches the greatest importance to speed in dismantling and removing plant once an allotment is made.

Seth Govind Das: With respect to clause (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member see that priority is given first to the Provincial Governments and not to the private concerns?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: So far as (c) is concerned, what I mentioned was that the list of properties is circulated to the Chambers of Commerce and the industrial associations but in reply to (f) and (g), I mentioned that if a plant or part of it is required for use for any Government sponsored industrial scheme, such plant or part thereof may be retained by Government for that scheme. Naturally, so far as the retention is concerned, Government have the first claim.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (c) of the question will you kindly permit me to ask my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das as to who his enemy countries are?

Seth Govind Das: I am not entitled to give a reply.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Having regard to the very low amount of reparations which India has received and having regard to the fact that several new industries want to use patents and devices which were German before, may I know whether Government is making any attempt to secure exceptional permissions, if necessary, to use some of these German patents in the meanwhile when Germany is still being considered an enemy country and is occupied?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: All requisitions which are received for the use of such patents are sent to the proper quarters and attempts are made to secure them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if 'proper quarters' mean His Majesty's Government and if so, may I know whether in view of the new status which India has acquired it is not possible to make a better and more effective attempt in order to use some of the patents and devices which the Germans had and which our people want to use in an emergency?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The proper quarters would not be His Majesty's Government in this case but it would be the Administrations set up by the occupying forces in Germany.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there any Indians among those specialists who are representing the Government of India and who are attached to the Inter-Allied Commission on Reparations?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There are Indians.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is there any choice left to India in the matter of selecting the plant which falls to her lot?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The lists are circulated. We choose the plant for which we want to bid. Then it is a question whether that plant is allotted to us or not. So far as the bid is concerned, the choice is certainly ours.

837. *[Withdrawn]

IMPOSITION OF FINES ON THE FRONTIER TRIBESMEN.

838. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the total sum derived by way of fines imposed on tribesmen on the Frontier for the last five years?

(b) Do Government propose to discontinue the imposition of fines as a mode of punishment and resort to other methods of punishment on tribesmen?

(c) What is the amount of fines imposed in recent weeks on the Frontier Tribesmen?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (c). In recent weeks a fine of Rs. 75,000 was imposed on the Nandihar tribesmen and has been paid up in full. Further information is being collected by the local Administration but is not yet ready. It will be placed on the table of the House when received.

(b) No. The imposition of fines is a recognised method of punishment in most countries of the world and there is no reason why offenders in the tribal areas should be exempted from it in cases in which it is appropriate.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member tell us what the currency is in which these tribesmen pay the money and whether these tribesmen have a Reserve Bank with a Nasik Press to print as much money as they like?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as I know, there is no branch of the Reserve Bank in the Tribal areas.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What is the currency in which the money is paid? If it is Indian currency, how do the tribesmen get hold of this currency?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I imagine it is paid in hard cash, in silver mostly but I am not quite sure but there is no doubt that it is Indian currency. There is no other currency.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is this silver against rupees?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: When I said 'silver' I meant rupees in Indian currency, which is the current coin.

Shri Sri Prakasa: How do they get hold of it?

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: If my friend Mr Sri Prakasa will have a talk with me, I shall explain the position to him.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM SHIPPING INTERESTS AGAINST HEAVY TAXATION.

839. ***Mr Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether Government have received any representations recently from shipping interests regarding heavy taxation which the Indian Shipping Interests consider as adversely affecting the industry of India?

* (b) Do Government propose to make a declaration of their policy in this regard?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b) No. No such representations have been received and there is no reason to believe that Government's present taxation policy militates against the Indian Shipping industry.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government examined the position of shipping companies under the new schemes which are now in the Budget and if so have they found any ground for special treatment of these companies which are practically in distress?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: When the taxation proposals are made by Government, it is for the industry to make out a case for exemption if it thinks that it has got certain special grounds for exemption. No such request has been received from the shipping industry, so far as the Commerce Department is concerned.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY FOR RURAL AREAS.

840. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state

(a) whether any comprehensive power policy has been formulated with a view to supplying cheap electricity for improving the rural life in India;

(b) whether Government propose to supply cheap electricity to the villages for agricultural farming, cottage industries and local arts and crafts; and

(c) the progress made in connection with the Government proposal to establish Statutory Electricity Boards to develop electrically backward areas in general and rural electrification in particular?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) and (b) It is the policy of Government to promote rural electrification, as will be clear from the broadcast talk given by the Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha of which a copy is laid on the table. Electric Power Development, which covers rural electrification, is, however, primarily the responsibility of Provincial Governments. The Government of India have been assisting the Provinces and States by giving expert advice, where needed, and encouraging them to undertake Rural Electrification Schemes.

(c) The Electricity (Supply) Bill, 1946, which provides for the setting up by Provinces of Statutory Electricity Board, was introduced in the Legislative Assembly in February 1946 but the motion for circulation could not be moved either in that session or the Autumn Session of 1946. The Bill was circulated for eliciting public opinion by executive order in March 1946. It is hoped to refer the Bill to Select Committee during the current Session.

THE HON'BLE MR. C. H. BHABHA'S BROADCAST

Electricity in Rural Areas.

"One of our most urgent tasks today is to create administrative conditions under which it will be possible for Government to play a positive role in large rural electrification schemes. The Government of India have already made a beginning in this direction by their proposal to establish Statutory Electricity Boards charged with the specific duty of developing electrically backward areas. But a great deal more still remains to be done. It is my earnest hope that a comprehensive power policy will be formulated in the near future which may enable Government to discharge our obligations to the rural population at least to some extent."

The foregoing is a passage in a broadcast talk given from the New Delhi Station of A. I. R. by the Hon'ble, Mr. C. H. Bhabha, Member for Works, Mines and Power, Govt. of India.

He said :

I would like to indicate in a few words what I conceive to be the right objectives underlying any programme of an electrical development in this country. To my mind, these are briefly, first, an overall increase in the production of electricity; secondly, the generation of this increased quantum of power in the most efficient units, and its distribution over a wide area through integrated power systems; and, thirdly, the development of the electrically backward areas generally, and of rural areas in particular. It is on this last aspect of electrical development that I would like to say a few words this evening.

Three years ago, an important conference of several leading Power Engineers in this country, both official and non-official, was held under the auspices of the Government of India. Not much publicity appears to have been given to this conference, possibly because these Power Engineers made some far-reaching recommendations which the then Provincial Governments and the Central Government were not in a position fully to implement. One of these recommendations read as follows:—

"The Conference has considered the question of the economic supply of Electricity to rural areas. In view of the importance of raising the standard of living of the agriculturists, who comprise the vast majority of India's population, we consider it imperative that, in planning for further electrical development, the essential needs of the rural community should be adequately catered for. The Conference notes with regret that in very few cases have the needs of non-urban population been met spontaneously by commercial licensees. On the other hand, the rapid spread of rural electricity in zones controlled by state schemes, notably in Mysore, Madras, the U. P. and Baroda, convinces the Conference that electric power can be made available to the villager if the promoters or grid schemes are willing to operate on strictly limited profits—and adopt a long-term economic view."

This was said as early as 1944, but the position still remains substantially unchanged and will continue to remain so for many years longer, unless energetic steps are taken to redress the balance of the past.

Electrical Deficiency in Rural Areas.

How is this to be achieved? It is necessary to set out some basic facts before an answer can be attempted. The total amount of electrical energy generated per year in

this country is approximately 4,000 million kilowatt hours, equivalent to about a week's production of energy in the United States of America. Extremely small as this overall production is, the distribution is faulty and inequitable. Over 42 per cent of the total energy generated is consumed in the two cities of Bombay and Calcutta, and if we take into account the figures for other large cities like Ahmedabad and Cawnpore, we find that over 50 per cent of the total amount of energy generated is utilised in these four cities which together contain only 1.6 per cent of the total population of India.

The figures just cited are a measure of our electrical deficiency in our rural areas. This would have been no cause for despondency, if electricity were only a luxury. Very often, people in this country complain about and criticize the absence of electric lighting in our villages, quite forgetful of the fact that the electrical development of a country is not measured by the size of its lighting load but by its agricultural and industrial load. In other words, domestic lighting is by no means the most important use of electricity and the standard of our rural masses can be effectively raised only if we can supply cheap electricity to them for agricultural farming, cottage industries and local arts and crafts. Undoubtedly, with the advent of electricity in our villages, a healthier standard of living will definitely spread throughout this country with its 700,000 villages. With the utilisation of electricity too, a new type of dwelling is bound to develop with consequent benefits to the health of our village folk.

But the most important use of electricity in rural areas would be its increasing use for the supply of perennial irrigation through power-operated wells and for development of cottage industries. Similar use of electricity for the reverse process of de-watering areas which are now water-logged or areas where the sub-soil water has risen very high, is equally important in some parts of the country. Cheap power will encourage the establishment of modern hygienic dairy and poultry farms and the processing of agricultural products to a stage very much nearer, than at present, to their manufacture into finished products. It will further assist in the establishment of village industries closely associated with basic agricultural operations.

Parallel Measures to ensure success of electrification—Cheap power by itself would not work all these miracles. It will have to be harnessed for the purposes that I have just mentioned under wise direction and able guidance. Whether the existing pattern of country life in our villages will enable our rural folk to take advantage of the supply of cheap power if and when it is available is a difficult problem of social organisation to which our social workers and administrators must address themselves. Rural electrification projects will yield handsome dividends only if they are accompanied by suitable parallel measures in the field of rural development. These should include—

- (a) suitable legislative and administrative action for consolidation of holdings, co-operative farming and improvement of agricultural and veterinary practices including supply of cheap manure and implements and the improvement of live stock
- (b) a scheme of pre-processing of agricultural produce before its despatch to urban centres
- (c) the establishment of power-driven medium scale industries under Government direction and control for the manufacture of agricultural implements and the simpler necessities of life
- (d) the establishment of small units of modern dairy and poultry farms under expert supervision and guidance
- (e) the provision of model dwelling houses of the simplest type to demonstrate and encourage domestic uses of electricity
- (f) liberal supply of agricultural finance and rural credit on easy terms coupled with scaling down of debts and reduction of litigation and
- (g) the development of simple types of village co-operative which will eventually take over from Government the direction, supervision and control envisaged in the foregoing proposals.

State to play positive Role—I do not consider it necessary to refer to the many technical problems of rural electrification except to say that the responsibility for introducing electricity in our rural areas must develop on the State or quasi-State authorities like Statutory Boards. Electrification has not proceeded at the same pace in rural areas as in urban areas, primarily because private companies have hesitated to enter a market which in their view, offers few opportunities for high returns on invested capital. The State alone can take the long-term programme of development. And it is just as well to emphasise that no extensive rural development schemes for electricity will ever be feasible unless the State takes into account the large indirect benefits accruing to the general public.

A word more, in this connection, of the efforts needed for spreading electricity in rural areas seems necessary. The lesson taught by the famous Tennessee Valley Authority in the extension of electricity to rural areas is well worth emulating. The great increase in prosperity in the Tennessee Valley since 1937 is largely due to the extension services and their specialists who carried on a regular campaign by meetings, demonstrations and other assistances like hire purchase schemes. These workers were specially trained in rural electrification at various centres before being entrusted with their jobs.

Except in some limited areas of Madras and the United Provinces and in a few enlightened Indian States, rural electrification has so far made little headway. Most of our Provinces have neither the organisation nor the technical ability necessary to initiate any vigorous scheme of rural electrification.

One of our most urgent tasks today is to create administrative conditions under which it will be possible for Government to play a positive role in large rural electrification schemes. The Government of India have already made a beginning in this direction by their proposal to establish Statutory Electricity Boards charged with the specific duty of developing electricity.

.....
 hope that a comprehensive power policy will be formulated in the near future which may enable Government to discharge our obligations to the rural population at least to some extent

Seth Govind Das: Are any negotiations going on with the Rewa State for having a big hydro-electric scheme in that State?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: There is a scheme for having a dam on the Sone river. The scheme is known as the Rihand scheme and negotiations are being carried on by the Government of the United Provinces with Rewa and Bihar and a few other States concerned.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know if there is any idea of supplying electricity to the rural areas for domestic purposes? If so, will the Honourable Member take care that the current supplied is D. C. and not A. C. current and if it is A. C., it is not of more than 110 voltage?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The supply will be of what is considered by the experts to be most suitable.

Shri Sri Prakasa: And not by the women and children who die?

Mr. President: Next question

INCREASED EXPORT OF HIDES.

841. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of hide has increased during the current financial year, if so, by what amount;

(b) the percentage of increase in prices of shoes etc., during this period; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the slaughter of cattle has also increased during this period?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Yes. A statement showing exports of raw buffalo and cow hides during ten financial years ending 1945-46 and seven months April to October 1946 is placed on the table.

(b) So far as Government are aware the increase in the price of shoes during the current financial year as compared with the last one varies from ten to fifteen per cent.

(c) No figures are available about the total number of cattle slaughtered. I would however refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 17th February 1947.

Statement

Export of hides and skins (Raw) —In tons. (Raw Buffalo, Cow and their Calf Skins but excluding raw goat and sheep skins.)

1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42
24,211	21,609	15,407	11,878	7,231	8,915

1942-43	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	April 1946—October 1946
4,442	3,402	1,046	572	5,239

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made to relate the prices of shoes and chappals with the prices of hides?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I do not think there is any exclusive connection between the two. So far as the prices of hides are concerned, there is no substantial increase. The increase in price may be due to other factors in the cost of production.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then why is it that when the essential raw material for shoes, that is, hides, has not increased in its price, such a continuous rise of prices amounting to 10 to 15 per cent. during the last year is being allowed in regard to the prices of shoes?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There is no question of allowing the increase, because the prices of shoes are not controlled. But, as I said, apart from the cost of the hide, there are several other materials which are used and the price of which has gone up. Then, there is the labour factor and the wages have gone up. So, naturally, there would be some increase in the price of the article.

MONOPOLISTIC PRICES OF KEROSENE AND PETROL.

842. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Works, Mines and Power, be pleased to state under what circumstances and for what reasons Government agreed to increase the prices of kerosene and petrol?

(b) Are Government aware that kerosene and petrol prices for India are monopolistic and are being settled by a pool?

(c) Have Government the power to protect consumers against an undue rise in prices of these and other articles, where the prices are fixed on a monopolistic basis by the pool?

(d) If so, under what law?

(e) When did they exercise these powers last?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) There has been no recent increase in the prices of kerosene and petroleum. In fact prices have gradually decreased since the 6th September 1942 for Kerosene and the 22nd January, 1944 for petroleum.

(b) Kerosene and petrol prices in India are based mainly on the Gulf parity price for imported kerosene and petrol and partly on the prices of indigenous production as settled by the then Honourable Member in charge of Commerce with the representatives of the Oil Companies towards the end of 1939. The totals are pooled every six months and an average price is worked out which is normally kept unchanged during this period. The arrangement is worked by a

Committee known as the Lawson Committee consisting of representatives of all the organized Oil Companies under the Chairmanship of the General Manager of M/s. Burmah Shell and Company. The half yearly pool prices are subject to Government approval.

(c), (d) and (e). Government have the power to control the prices at which petroleum and petroleum products may be bought or sold under sub-section (2) (c) of section 3 of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946. These powers have not so far been exercised.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the prices of petrol were reduced when Rumanian and Russian petrol came in some years ago and that this Gulf parity merely means the cost of transporting oil all the way from U.S.A., may I know whether Government have examined that India is not prejudiced by the manner of fixing this price because the cost of transport from the Persian Gulf to India is very much lower?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The oil throughout the world is controlled by certain oil interests about which my Honourable friend knows far more than I can pretend to know. The custom all over the world is that prices are based on Gulf parity, which means the price of petrol in the Mexican Gulf. It is the price as published in the U.S.A. where the biggest production takes place. To this is added what is called an origin differential, that is, the cost of transport from the Gulf to the country where it is sold. The custom throughout the world is that this origin differential is charged irrespective of where the actual supply comes from. Even for petroleum from the Persian Gulf, India has to pay the cost of transport as if that petroleum was brought from the Mexican Gulf. The only advantage that we got from the Conference of 1939 which the then Honourable Member in charge of Commerce had with the Oil Companies was that the origin differential was fixed at the pre-war rates. That means that any increase in the cost of transport during war time, was not added to the cost of petroleum in India and, to that extent, this agreement has certainly helped India. I may also add that prices, as I said, have been decreasing for the last two or four years. The pre-war price of petrol was As. 10/6 without taking into consideration taxes and import duty. In September 1939, it was As. 10/6 and it rose to Re. 1/1 on the 22nd January 1944. It has now gone down to As. 11/6. Similarly, with kerosene it was Rs. 2/14 in September 1939, rose to Rs. 5/14 in September 1942 and has now gone down to Rs. 8/7. Similarly with inferior kerosene it was Rs. 2/6 before the war, then rose to Rs. 5/-/6 and is now Rs. 2/9/6.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that His Majesty's Government has the controlling interest in the Persian Gulf Oil Companies and that the Anglo-Persian Oil Company has also the controlling interest in the B.O.C., will Government examine the vulnerable position in which India is with regard to oil prices and take such steps as in their wisdom they think fit to protect this country against exploitation?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That question is very actively under consideration.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that the Government is going to remove the control on petrol and kerosene oil shortly?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The question of removing the control is also under consideration; but so long as these commodities continue in short supply, it is difficult to remove the control altogether.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the present prospects for the adequate supplies of kerosene oil in India? Are they likely to increase or are they increasing?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The prospects of increase in the supply of kerosene are very bright. But there are two bottle-necks. One of them is the non-availability of tin plate and black plate. The supplies are there but they cannot be moved because there are no containers and the possibility of other types of

containers is being at present examined. If that possibility materialises, I expect that there will be an increase in the supply of kerosene very shortly. The other difficulty is, of course transport on railways and the question of tank wagons. That also is being examined.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is there any possibility of petrol rationing being removed in the near future?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That question may be addressed to the Transport Department which deals with rationing.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member tell me where I can get petrol for As. 11/6 a gallon in Delhi?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That is the price of petrol at Port, that means where it is landed. To that has to be added the excise duty, taxes, cost of transport, and other charges. The price in Delhi is not what I am quoting; I am quoting the price at Port.

ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

843. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) what diplomatic contacts the Government of India have with the Governments of countries in Latin America, notably, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Peru and Chile;

(b) whether any efforts are being made to establish Embassies in those countries; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of sending personal representatives to those countries to explore the possibilities of improving our relations with them?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Diplomatic Missions have not so far been exchanged with countries in Latin America.

(b) The Government are considering the establishment of diplomatic Missions in a number of countries including the countries of Central and South America.

(c) Government do not consider it necessary to send any such representatives at present, though they will consider doing so later, should it at any time appear desirable in the interests of India's relations with those countries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was any effort made at the recent International Conferences when our representatives must have met representatives of these countries to carry on exploratory discussions with a view to facilitate an early opening of Embassies in these countries?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir, there were such discussions and they were very satisfactory. The difficulty now is not the lack of desire on the part of the other countries or on our part, but mechanical difficulties of finding ways and means and selecting suitable people to fill these posts.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member give us an idea of the average cost of each Embassy?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the average would be because they must vary greatly. I am afraid I could not give this information now, but if the Honourable Member desires I could supply him with such estimates as we have.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that some of these countries are also agricultural countries and happen to compete with India in International markets, and some others are interested in the production of tin and oils and their services may be found to be extremely useful in India's economy, will the Government of India realize the urgency of establishing International relations with these countries, particularly in Latin America?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India have considered all these matters and have tried to make up a list of relative priorities, I cannot say off-hand where these countries come, but I do believe that one or two of them are in the first list of priority.

ALLOWANCES TO BURMA-INDIAN IMMIGRANTS OR REFUGEES

844. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are insisting that all those Burma-Indian immigrants or refugees who have been in receipt of Government advances or allowances should go back to Burma by June or July as their allowances would be stopped by that time,

(b) if so, the reasons for stipulating such a condition,

(c) if the reply to part (a) is in the negative, do Government propose to reassure these refugees that they are free to go or not to go to Burma in the near future;

(d) whether Government are aware that conditions of labour, wages, housing and security available for Indian labourers in Burma are not satisfactory and that there is a great demand from them for passages for India who are offering black-market rates for a berth on the decks of ships sailing for India; and

(e) whether Government propose to give due publicity in the principal centres of Burma-Indian refugees about the difficulties of conditions of living obtaining in Burma for all Indian workers?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c) No pressure is being brought to bear on evacuees to leave for Burma now or indeed at any time. On the other hand, evacuees have been advised that only those of them who own land or house property in Burma or are businessmen who have their own arrangements for accommodation, food, etc., should go at present. Certain proposals regarding the progressive winding up of the existing scheme of financial assistance to evacuees, so as to terminate it by the 29th February, 1948, are, however, under consideration. If these proposals materialise, evacuees in receipt of financial assistance will be afforded certain facilities to return to Burma. Assistance will be discontinued to those of them that fail to take advantage of the facilities offered.

(d) As regards the first part of the question, Government of India have received reports that the condition of Indian labour is far from satisfactory. As regards the second part, the position regarding shipping for repatriation from Burma has improved and no complaints of the nature referred to have been received by the Government of India in recent months.

(e) In March 1946, the Government of India gave wide publicity to the fact that the cost of living in Burma was reported to be very high and that there was acute shortage of accommodation and transport. Government believe that this state of things is now widely known to evacuees; but the suggestion that further publicity regarding the difficult conditions of living in Burma should be given will be considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the facilities that Government of India propose to provide to the evacuees if they wish to go back to Burma on the cessation of the payment of these allowances?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member has not got it quite correctly. We are trying to send them back as early as possible. Those who want to go back, we are telling them that you can go now. If they say we cannot go, the allowances stop automatically because we cannot just go on paying allowances. There is no necessity for them to go if we go on

paying them allowances here indefinitely. So if a chance is given to them, and if they do not take advantage of the facilities offered, the assistance will be discontinued. The facilities—I am speaking from memory—are the cost of transit *plus* other expenses on the journey.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But in view of the considerable difficulties that are being experienced by those who have already gone to Burma, will Government consider at least the advisability of exploring possibilities for providing employment for these people in India when they stop these allowances?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member should be aware that this question affects not only these people from Burma but tens of millions of people in India, it applies to all the people who have been and are going to be discharged from war factories. It is a very difficult position for them as well as for other services. On the other hand there is a demand—and a rightful demand—for retrenchment, all round, and that retrenchment immediately produces these difficulties. How those poor people are going to look after themselves? These people from Burma have been paid allowances now for six years on a fairly good scale. We propose to pay them still so long as they cannot go back to Burma, but it is an impossible situation for them—neither to return to Burma nor to do anything here and just go on getting allowances from us.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know from the Honourable Member as to when these evacuees will be cleared out of Chunar so that my house which has been commandeered under the D. I. R. for their behoof may be given back to me?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am extremely sorry to hear that the Honourable Member has been inconvenienced, and my attention was not drawn to this fact, but if we can afford him any help in Chunar we shall certainly do so.

PROPERTY OF ENEMY COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

845. *Mr. G. B. Dani: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any properties belonging to enemy countries in the Central Provinces and particularly in Berar; if so, what they are;

(b) whether negotiations are being carried on with any party or parties for their disposal;

(c) whether Government are aware that they have not been advertised for sale,

(d) whether Government propose to advertise their sale and dispose them of by public auction or after inviting sealed tenders; and

(e) whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a list of all such properties vested in the custodian of Enemy Property or firms so far as Central Provinces and Berar are concerned?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a), (b) and (c). Messrs. Toyo Manka Kaisha and the Japan Cotton Trading Company Limited each had a cotton ginning and pressing factory at Amraoti. These factories are at present vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property, who is negotiating for their sale to the Amraoti Taluk Agricultural Association through the Provincial Government of C. P. and Berar. The negotiations have not so far been finalised.

(d) Yes.

(e) The procedure to be followed in regard to the sale of these properties is under consideration.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I repeat my question to my Honourable friend Mr. Dani and ask him also as to who his enemies are?

Mr. President: That is well known by now.

STATISTICS ON WAGES FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

†846. *Sri V. Gangaraju: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have got any statistics on wages for agricultural labourers,

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to place those statistics on the table of this House, and

(c) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to arrange for the collection of such statistics in the various Provinces?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Some Provincial Governments publish quinquennial Agricultural Wage Census Report. According to information available, the reports, except in the case of the Punjab and Bombay were all published pre-war. The latest Punjab and Bombay Reports relate to the year 1942-43.

(b) Government would obtain available copies of the reports and place them in the Library of the House.

(c) Government have already taken up with Provincial Governments the question of instituting an enquiry into agricultural labour conditions in various provinces to ascertain the systems and quantum of wages and perquisites paid to agricultural workers their earnings, regularity of employment, working and living conditions with a view to consider what steps should be taken to improve their conditions of employment and to enable them to reach a reasonable standard of living. A scheme for the regular collection of statistics on agricultural wages is also under consideration of the Agriculture Department.

REPATRIATION OF INDIANS FROM JAVA AND SUMATRA

847. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state whether in view of the unsettled conditions in Java and Sumatra Government propose to make necessary arrangements for the repatriation of such Indian civilians as are anxious to return to this country?

(b) If so, what facilities do Government propose to afford to them?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). Steps have already been taken to repatriate from Java and Sumatra those Indian nationals resident there who were desirous of returning to India. Last autumn the Government of India chartered two ships, at an approximate cost of Rs. 2,00,000, for this purpose and since then a number of Indians have been brought back to India in paddy ships. In all more than 3,000 persons have so far been repatriated. Few Indians who wish to return to India now remain in Java and Sumatra and arrangements are being made to obtain passages for them as soon as possible.

RESTRICTION ON REMITTANCES TO INDIA FROM INDIAN NATIONALS IN FRENCH INDO-CHINA

848. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state the action taken by Government on the representations made by the Indian Association in Indo-China-Saigon on behalf of the Indian Nationals in French Indo-China, who are experiencing difficulties to make remittances to their families in India on account of the restrictions imposed by the Government of India and at what stage the matter stands at present?

(b) Were any representations made to Government in this connection, by Sri V. Nadimuthu Pillai, Member of the Constituent Assembly, describing the conditions of the Indian Nationals in Indo-China, and citing reference to the

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

replies to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 441, asked by Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar on 22nd February 1946, regarding the exchange facilities to Indian Nationals in French Indo-China to send money to their families in India?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of India promised to expedite the matter, if so, at what stage does the matter stand at present, when Government have appointed an Indian Consul in French Indo-China?

(d) Was any final report received by Government on this matter?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of instructing the Vice-Consul at Saigon to conclude the debt settlement and remove the exchange restrictions to facilitate the Indian Nationals to make remittances to India freely?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) to (e) Government have received representations from Mr. V. Nadimuthu Pillai and from representatives of the Indian community in Indo-China in regard to the refusal of the French authorities in Indo-China to allow remittances by Indian nationals in that country. They are aware that this refusal has resulted in hardship to those persons in India who would have been beneficiaries from such remittances.

Every effort is being made to reach an agreement with the French Government, through negotiations in Indo-China and directly with the French authorities in India, for the removal of the prohibition on remittances from French Indo-China to India. Negotiations with the French authorities have reached an advanced stage and the Government of India hope that a final settlement will now not be long deferred.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: May I know how long it will take?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just said that we hope to come to a settlement soon. It is very difficult for me to fix a time.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

IMPORTATION OF STEEL FOR BUILDING PURPOSES

849. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state what steps have Government taken to encourage the importation of steel for building purposes, of which there is a great shortage in India?

(b) Have any licences for such imports been asked for and, if so, how many?

(c) Is it a fact that Government are refusing licences for such imports and, if so, why?

(d) Have Government examined the possibility of abolishing import duties on steel useful for building purposes with a view to encouraging imports?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) The Iron and Steel Control Organisation have made enquiries from U.K., U.S.A. and Australia regarding the availability of iron and steel for all purposes including building for export to India, but have so far been unable to secure any imports owing to the shortage of steel in those countries.

(b) Licences for 11,452 tons of structurals and bars, 2,862 tons of sheet and 22,684 tons of pipes, tubes and fittings have been issued for imports from foreign countries.

(c) Till recently import licences were granted to any person who could substantiate his application with definite proof of availability. From June 1946 to the end of January 1947 licences were, however, restricted to imported materials of which the selling price was not more than Rs. 100 above the declared price in India of similar materials. In view of Government decision to make all imports of steel of the controlled categories in future on its own account, and to equalise the prices the issue of import licences was discontinued. The question was, however, discussed further on Saturday the 1st March, at the

meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee of the Legislature attached to the Department of Industries and Supplies when it was decided to give facilities to genuine consumers to import steel for their own use. In accordance with this decision instructions have been given to the Controller of Steel Imports and a press notice is being issued by him.

(d) As the Honourable Member is aware, the iron and steel industry enjoys protection upto the 31st March 1947. The question of continuance of this protection is at present under examination and the possibility of abolishing the import duty on steel useful for building purposes will also be considered in this

DIRECT TRADE AGREEMENT WITH U. S. A.

850. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether, in view of the fact that discriminating tariff against the United States *vis-a-vis* Britain under Imperial preference cannot continue, Government propose to consider the desirability of negotiating a direct trade agreement with the United States of America on the lines of the Indo-American Aviation Agreement?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No, Sir. The Government of India feel that in view of the forthcoming International Trade and Employment Conference it will be inadvisable to take up at this stage the question of negotiating a direct trade agreement with the United States of America.

HOARDING AND PROFITEERING PREVENTION ORDINANCE.

851. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance is still in force in the Centrally administered areas; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to repeal it?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 13th March 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies.

BANNING OF CONSTRUCTION IN 'GANDHI NAGAR' COLONY IN DELHI

852. *Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the existence of a small colony named "Gandhi Nagar" with a population of 6,000 on the other side of the river Jamuna?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India has banned all further constructions in this area?

(c) In view of the scarcity of houses in Delhi, do Government propose to lift the ban on constructions in this locality?

(d) Considering the nearness of this Nagar to the city, do Government propose to encourage the development of this Nagar?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The subject is one for the Health Department. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 17th March 1947, when it will be answered by the Secretary of the Health Department.

OBJECTION BY MYSORE TO CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS ACROSS LAXMANA-THIRTHA RIVER IN COORG.

853. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Coorg Administration has drawn up schemes for constructing Dams across the rivers Laxmana-thirtha (South Coorg) and Harangi (North Coorg) in order to irrigate about 12,000 acres of land?

(b) Are Government aware that Mysore Durbar has raised some objections in this connection as these rivers are the tributaries of the river Kaveri whose waters are now utilised by Mysore through Krishnaraja Sagar Dam?

(c) Has this matter been referred to the Government of India for necessary action?

(d) If so, when?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes. The extent of land to be irrigated by these schemes is about 9,000 acres—6,000 acres by the Harangi Project and 3,000 acres by the Lakshmanathirtha Project.

(b) So far as the Government of India are aware, the Mysore Government have raised objections only in regard to the Lakshmanathirtha Irrigation Project.

(c) and (d). Yes. The Chief Commissioner, Coorg, proposed in December 1945 that the Government of Mysore should be advised to withdraw their objections. The Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission was consulted and the Chief Commissioner was requested in April 1946 to supply certain further details. The reply of the Chief Commissioner has not yet been received.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

SUPPLY OF TABLE FANS IN RESIDENCES OF OFFICERS DRAWING RS. 600 P.M.

77. Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state whether Government are aware of the past practice to supply table fans on hire during summer season to occupants of Government residences in order of priority of their applications irrespective of their pay?

(b) Are Government aware that the practice has since been modified and that the fans are now supplied only to such officers as are in receipt of Rs. 600 per mensem and above?

(c) Are Government aware that this has involved a great hardship on low paid Government servants in view of the fact that the number of ceiling fans in their residences is much smaller than those in the residences of officers drawing pay of Rs. 600 p m and above, who can easily afford to hire fans by private arrangements in market?

(d) Do Government propose to revive the old practice, in view of the fact that the war is now over?

(e) If so, do Government propose to give effect to the change from the 15th March 1947 when the Summer Season is likely to start?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c), (d) and (e). Government do not appear to have received any complaints although the new rules were introduced in 1945 on account of shortage of table fans, and the difficulty of buying new ones. The matter will be reconsidered when the supply position becomes easier than it is at present.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

Second Stage—*contd.*

DEMAND No 24—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR—*contd.*

Labour Policy of the Government of India—contd.

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the cut motion moved yesterday by Mr. Joshi to discuss the labour policy of Government.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member): Sir, I fail to understand with what object my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi moved ^{12 Noon} this cut motion. The intention of a cut motion is either to censure Government or to draw their attention to something.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): To censure Government if the reply is unsatisfactory.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am coming to that. If it is to censure Government I am afraid my Honourable friend has not made out any case in his speech for censuring them. If it is to draw their attention, I am afraid he has placed before Government no new items which Government has not already taken up. Therefore I said I fail to understand his intention in moving this cut motion. All the same for the information of the House, and not for Mr. Joshi alone, I shall place before the House the steps that this Government has already taken or propose to take in order to improve the condition of the working classes of this country. As soon as we took charge of this Government, I convened a series of conferences in order to discuss a five-year plan of work to improve the condition of the working classes. And Mr Joshi is well aware of that scheme, a copy of the scheme was sent to the All-India Trade Union Congress of which my Honourable friend happens to be the General Secretary.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I did not plead ignorance of that scheme

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: And the scheme was discussed primarily in the conference of provincial Labour Ministers, after that at a conference of State Labour Ministers, and then at a conference of representatives of employers and workers at which the All-India Trade Union Congress was also represented. Now, I will refer to the items which Mr. Joshi has placed before the House and before Government to be taken up, and I will show from the scheme which we have formulated and which is to be executed in the next five years that all these items are covered by our scheme; rather we have got a larger number of items which are bound to ameliorate the condition of the working classes to a greater extent than Mr. Joshi has suggested. He has suggested minimum wages in organised industries, housing, health insurance, employment insurance and retirement benefit. These are the five items which he has suggested to be included in the five-year programme. He has also suggested other things regarding strengthening of the staff of the Labour Department, putting the tripartite labour committee on an independent basis, and giving a freer hand to the executives of the Labour Department in order to carry out their programme. I propose, Sir, to examine, in some detail, the proposal that Mr. Joshi has made and the work which we have already undertaken or propose to undertake in the near future

At the very outset, I want to make it clear that one of the major objectives of Government policy will be to secure to the workers the highest practicable standard of living. I have made it clear on more than one occasion that no industry which cannot afford to pay living wages to its workers has a right

to survive. If that industry is indispensable in the interest of the community or the nation it may be subsidised by the community; but the industry cannot have a right to subsist on the exploitation of the working classes. And I can assure the House and assure the working classes that so long as I am here I shall work with that objective in view.

Mr. Joshi began by comparing the conditions in this country with the conditions in America and other western countries. I for one admit that the condition of the working classes in this country is far from satisfactory; I admit that the working classes here in India are getting ten times less pay than the working classes in other countries get. But may I draw the attention of Mr. Joshi to the fact that our country is ten times less industrialised than those other countries? May I draw his attention to the fact that we are still at least a century behind the industrially developed countries of the west? As a practical man I have always thought that there is no reason why the condition of the working classes of this country should not be brought to the same level as in other countries. But this cannot be done overnight; it will take some time. Only a miracle man can do it overnight; not a human being who has to face a number of limitations brought about by a first-class war and dislocation of the social order not only here but in all countries. But all the same we have been persistently trying to improve the condition of the working classes,—the working classes not only in organised industries as Mr. Joshi suggests, but also of those who are far more numerous than the industrial labour.

We have formulated a scheme to cover all categories of labour, all categories of working classes and it is our intention to improve their condition. Perhaps it may take sometime but several factors have to be taken into account in judging our progress. I may for the renewed and fresh information of Mr. Joshi give out the items of the programme which are included in our five years' plan. They are—

Statutory prescription of minimum wages in sweated industries and occupations,

Promotion of 'fair wage' agreements

Steps will be taken to secure for workers in Plantations a living wage.

It is also proposed to set up an enquiry into the earnings of agricultural labourers. Upon the results of the enquiry will depend here nature and the extent of the measures necessary to protect the wages of these classes of workers from sliding below the minimum.

Reduction in the hours of work in mines to bring the working hours in line with the hours of work in factories which have been recently reduced from 54 to 48 a week

Legislation to regulate hours of work, spread-over, weekly rest periods and holidays with pay for other classes of workers not now subject to regulation, e.g., those employed in shops and commercial undertakings, road transport services, dock and municipal labour.

Overhaul of the Factories Act with a view to the prescription and enforcement of right standards in regard to lighting, ventilation, safety, health and welfare of the workers. Conditions of work are to be improved, particularly in unorganised industries and work places to which the present Factories Act does not apply.

Revision of the Mines Act to bring about similar improvements in the working conditions in mines.

Organisation of industrial training and apprenticeship schemes on a large scale with a view to improving the productive and earning capacity of workers and enabling them to qualify for promotions to higher grades.

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Provision of adequate housing for workers to the extent of the ----
both of man power and materials, that can be made available for this serv

Steps will be taken to secure for workers in plantations, mining and other categories provision of housing

Organisation of the Health Insurance Scheme, applicable to factory workers to start with, for the provision of medical treatment and monetary relief during sickness, maternity benefit on an extended scale, medical treatment in the case of disablement and the substitution of pensions during periods of disablement and to dependents, in case of death, in place of the present lump sum payments.

Revision of the Workmen's Compensation Act with a view to extending to other classes of workers the benefit provided for under the Health Insurance Scheme in respect of disablement and dependent benefits

A central law for maternity benefits to secure for other than factory workers the extended scale of benefits provided under the Health Insurance Scheme

Extension to other classes of workers, the right, within specified limits, to leave with allowances during periods of sickness.

Provision of crotches and canteens.

Welfare of the coal mining labour and welfare of the Mica mining labour

Over and above this, we have been pressing the need of strengthening the inspection staff in the provinces. We have already started training of Factory Inspectors. We are strengthening the Inspectorate of Mins. The items which Mr. Joshi has suggested are more than covered in this five year programme. The only difference that he would like to make out is that the minimum wages should be prescribed not only in the sweated industries but in all "organized" industries, the word 'organised' is quoted from his own speech.

As regards minimum wages in organised industry, the workers in those industries which have been organised into trade unions by the efforts of leaders of workers who claim to have been working among the working classes of this country, are in a position to secure for themselves something which may be regarded as a minimum wage, if not a living wage. The conditions of those workers who are not organised is worse. They are not in a position to assert themselves or to secure for themselves even a minimum wage. At the first stage it is necessary to help such workers who are not organised or in a position to bargain with their employers to secure a minimum wage. So our intention is in the first instance to take up the sweated industries and if it is found necessary to expand its scope not for the organised industrial workers but for other categories of workers. It will be done

As regards organised industries it is proposed to promote fair wages agreements between the employers and the employees and if necessary to have a legislation to that effect. We are also proceeding with the work of standardisation of occupational terms and wages in major industries and the determination of the differential in wage rates as between various organisations in an industry. We have already taken up the work of standardisation of occupational terms

As regards plantation labour and other categories of labour we are thinking of forming tripartite organisations for each industry. A Plantation Labour Conference was held in January last and an agreement was reached between Government, employers and workers, that a quick enquiry into Family Budgets should be conducted with a view to ascertaining the present level of earnings and the normal requirements of workers and that as soon as the investigations are concluded, there should be a conference to discuss and settle rates of wages for plantation workers. The enquiry has been set on

foot. Pending the enquiry, employers in Assam and Bengal tea gardens have already agreed to the grant of an *ad hoc* increase of dearness allowance equivalent to 2½% of the basic wages.

Government intends setting up tripartite organisations for different industrial organisations and industrial committees will go a great length in securities like coal, cotton, textile, jute, hide and leather and others. These tripartite organisations for the workers improvements in their wages and social security measures.

It is necessary to examine the question of wage adjustments not merely for the benefit of industrial workers, but also of the vast mass of workers on land. Owing to the vastness of the subject, the unorganised condition of workers, the absence of adequate data and the disparate conditions obtaining in the different parts of the country, we cannot hope to solve the problem by the device of industrial committees. The first requisite is to get a clear idea of the conditions of the problem and this might be obtained only by instituting a comprehensive enquiry into the earnings, opportunities of employment and the standards of living of agricultural workers in the various parts of the country. The Labour Department has drafted a questionnaire and it has been circulated to provincial and a number of State Governments and certain select Economists for their comment and criticism. As soon as their comments are received, the questionnaire will be finalised and the enquiry will be started. It is a huge task which will have to be undertaken with the co-operation of provincial and State Governments. It is noteworthy that a number of State Governments are taking interest in this enquiry. Government are moving as fast as possible in the matter of wage-fixation but it is very difficult to reach satisfactory voluntary agreements between employers and workers. Then the Government will consider the question of introducing legislation to set up Wage Boards with statutory powers of fixing wages.

The Health Insurance Bill has already been introduced in the Assembly. A comprehensive amendment of the Factories Act has already been taken up and will be introduced in this session of the Assembly. An officer has already been detailed to study the question relating to unemployment, old age and retirement pensions. It would take a little time before tentative conclusions can be formulated to serve as a basis of discussion. In this connection I may point out that in our country it is not a question of unemployment only of a comparatively small number of industrial workers. Our country is suffering mainly from unemployment and under employment. Vast masses of workers working in the villages are unemployed for a major portion of the year and they are under employed even during the working period. The whole question is how to utilise our man power. The difficulty is not lack of intention on the part of Government, but the difficulty is how to develop the country. Today every Honourable Member in the House will agree with me that in spite of the best intention of the Central Government in spite of the best intention of the Provincial Governments to take up new schemes for the development of the country and of the respective provinces in spite of the best efforts of the industrialists to have new industries developed in this country, there are difficulties which we have to face in securing machineries and in securing materials and qualified personnel and thus expanding the resources of the country. While considering the improvement of the working classes, we will have to take into consideration the limitations which we have to face due to abnormal conditions. I do not want to take up more time of the House. I have already taken a lot of time of the House, but I may assure Mr. Joshi, Mr. Guruswami and other friends that the Government do not wish to wait for their suggestions before taking action. Government has already taken up schemes for the amelioration of labour. Government will of course welcome any suggestion and constructive criticism from friends. But I may

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say that we are already proceeding on these lines and so there is no justification for any criticism. It may be that in Mr. Joshi's assessment, we might not be moving as fast as he would like us to do. But I may assure him that we are as anxious as he is to get our measures through. But the difficulties are here in the Assembly itself. My Honourable friend Mr. Joshi and his other labour friends took up rather much of the time of the House in repeating the same arguments and they took several days over a single Bill which could have been finished in a few hours. By taking more time of the House, they prevented Government from bringing forward other measures which would be beneficial to working classes.

As regards strengthening our department, I agree with him, but the difficulty is in getting suitable men. Ever since I took charge of this department, I have been trying to get suitable men to place them in charge of certain sections. So far we have been relying only on provincial governments to give us officers. In spite of repeated requests, we have not been able to get suitable officers from them.

As regards the Standing Labour Committee I should like to take one or two minutes on that point. Mr. Joshi is confusing the whole issue when he compares the Standing Labour committee with I.L.O. The I.L.O. is not an institution attached to one particular government, but the I.L.O. is an Association of sovereign States and its aim is to bring about an improvement in international labour standards and ensure that the countries compete on even terms. The I.L.O. has not forged new standards of labour policy and administration. Some countries are advanced and others are less advanced. The I.L.O. attempts to narrow the gap between the more advanced and less advanced countries. Many countries vote for the conventions, but do not ratify them. According to the constitution as amended at Montreal last year, Member States are required to explain every year why they have not ratified the convention. This obligation is likely to introduce an element of realism in voting and it may well be that fewer conventions will be framed in the years to come, as no country would hereafter rush to vote for a convention which it may not be able to implement. The Indian Labour conference on the other hand is an advisory body set up to advise government on measures which should be taken to improve labour standards. Constitutionally both the Centre and the provinces have full legislative authority in regard to labour matters and it is impossible to set up in India a conference similar to the I.L.O. It is only when the Centre ceases to have legislative authority and all power vests in the provinces that it may become necessary to have an organisation where fully autonomous provincial governments and the States will come together and discuss standards of labour policy and administration. If the constitution of the Indian Labour conference under such circumstances includes a provision that the participating governments must give an account why they have not implemented the decisions of the conference, they are bound to vote only for such measures as they may be in a position to implement. The pace of reform will be slow. While it may be possible to iron out differences in standards from province to province, State to State, it is by no means certain that the Conference would be an instrument in forging new standards of labour policy and administration for the country as a whole. So long as the present Constitution remains, it is premature to consider a change. I do not agree with the views that the Standing Labour committee should continue to have a place on an independent footing with an independent Chairman and a Director paid heavily, as heavily as the Director of I.L.O. or as much as the Secretary to the Government of India here. As a matter of fact when the Tripartite labour conference is there and when we

are going to have a number of industrial committees for various trade and industry, there is no necessity for the Labour committee. I personally feel that in particular trade and industry, it is those persons who are specialised in that industry who will be helpful in giving suggestions and advice to the Government. We are going to have a number of industrial committees for various industries and trades. In that view, I do not agree with my Honourable friend's suggestion on that point. As regards other suggestions, as I have already remarked, we have taken up those items and are proceeding with them as fast and as expeditiously as we can. We are all anxious, as much as Mr. Joshi, to see that the working classes in this country get better living conditions than they have at present.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

DEMAND NO. 11—CABINET.

Welfare of Scheduled Castes.

Rao Bahadur N. Sivaraj (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100,"

My object in doing so is to discuss the welfare of the community which I have the privilege of representing in this Honourable House. Of late, a feeling has come over the members of my community that the Government of India is trying to undo what little has been done by the Government of India hitherto. In other words my anxiety is to see that the position of the scheduled castes with reference to the benefits or such benefits as the Government of India confer upon the people of this country is stabilised. Whether it is due to the pre-occupation of the members of the Interim Government with their own affairs or it is due to the avowed policy of ignoring the claim of the scheduled castes, the fact is that for some time past the recognition that has been given to our community is being gradually taken away. I can quote a number of instances but in view of the little time at my disposal, it is not possible to do so. However I will indicate the tendency. I will take one instance. Whenever the Government of India sent out delegations from this country overseas, they always made it their policy to try and find out if they could not get representatives from the scheduled castes to be put on these delegations. Of late I have seen that a number of delegations have gone out and in not one of them even an inquiry is made as to whether they could not select a Scheduled castes representative. I also find that with regard to the qualifications which have been prescribed for recruitment to the Foreign Service they have put the qualifications so high that it will really result in shutting out the members of the Scheduled castes. That was not the policy adopted by the Government hitherto so far as the recruitment of the scheduled castes was concerned. A minimum qualification sufficient to carry the responsibility of the office was insisted on but now I find in the advertisement for Foreign Service that very high qualifications have been prescribed.

Again, Sir, we feel that in spite of the Government Resolution fixing the quota of representation for the scheduled castes in the Central services, no attempt has so far been made to find out whether that Resolution is being carried out and we have always suggested to the Government of India that an administrative officer should be appointed to inquire into this question and see from time to time whether a department or departments are really getting round this rule. We are afraid that the Government Resolution is not being

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carried out in many instances and the Government shuts its eyes to such happenings. I would personally suggest to the Government of India that a scheduled caste man is not needlessly shut out in the matter of recruitment to the services and that in order to see to this a representative of the scheduled castes should be put on the Federal Public Services Commission. That is a demand that we have always been making. No doubt it is true that the F.P.S.C. must rise above all prejudices but consisting as they do of human beings and particularly in these days, as human beings are so excited communally and otherwise, we fear that justice is not being done to us even by the Federal Public Service Commission. So, I think that the Government of India ought to take care to see that they give us representation on the Federal Public Service Commission.

Then with regard to the Education Department, something has happened recently. There are two scholarship boards. One is the General Scholarship Board for sending a certain number of Indians about 800 in number, overseas for training. The other is the special one created to distribute the number set apart for the scheduled castes by the Government of India for purposes of higher education. In the General Scholarship Board representation has always been given to the scheduled castes in order to see that the members of the community get their advantages there but now I find that no representation is given and what I am afraid has happened is that they said that so far as the general scholarships were concerned the scheduled castes are not entitled to it, that they are not entitled to a reservation of these scholarships and they must be relegated entirely to the scheduled castes board and this is a matter which has caused great concern to us.

Then we feel that far from our quota being taken away from the General Scholarships Board, more ought to have been given, having regard to the fact that we have been kept back all these years and there should be a further increase in the quota that is allotted to the Scheduled Castes Scholarships Board.

Sir, I feel that so far this problem of the scheduled castes has been tackled as a social problem. I feel also that most people who talk about the welfare of the scheduled castes and their betterment think that they can do it just when they want to do it, just as it pleases them to do it but from our point of view the problem of the scheduled castes is a very serious one. It is becoming increasingly serious and it is becoming a major problem. I see already signs of our people demanding these things as a matter of right and not as a matter of concession. They refuse to take it as a gift from anybody and that is due to the fact that during these two wars quite a number of people have been overseas and if I stand here today and raise this question, it is because of the feeling that has come over the members of our community that they should now demand these things as a matter of right and take them as a matter of right and that they should not hang on to the coat tails of one or the other in order to establish their rights.

I may also tell Honourable Members of this House, through you, that we consider this question of the scheduled castes from the point of view of humanity. Very often our position is misunderstood and misrepresented. I can assure you on my own behalf and on behalf of the scheduled castes that our object is not to dominate either the Hindus or the Muhammadans. We should be thankful if we are protected in the clash that arises very often between the Hindus and Muhammadans in the various provinces. But our position is this that we want to assert ourselves humanly. I want freedom for India and Indians in order that I might enjoy and share it. Many may be happy in this House that we are getting freedom very soon but we feel that that freedom may not be of such great use to us, for we fear that. It may

be exercised to our disadvantage. Mr. Attlee says that he would not hand over India to the depressed classes. In fact, he says that they expect nobody to hand over this power to the depressed classes. I do not know what exactly is the significance of that statement. But does he know that the original rulers of this country—I need not quote names—were the people who belonged to the scheduled castes. Sir, our fight is not one for political power, as I said, but our method of approach to the solution of the question of the scheduled castes is different. Our fight is almost ideological. We feel that we were once free and it is because of a particular system of society that we have been treated as untouchables. Even the constitution of the villages in India shows that we are ideologically opposed to the Hindus from the very outset and that is why we do not come under what is called "Hinduism." But it is the Brahmanical system of society that has treated us most ungenerously. It is because of that treatment that we have lost all the opportunity that we normally should have for our children being sent to the schools who are between the ages of 8 and 11. Whereas the caste Hindu children are studying and playing in schools, our children have no such facilities. Then you prescribe first class qualifications for us. How can the Government expect that class of people from our society? We, therefore, feel that the Government ought to treat this question as a major problem because it concerns the welfare and happiness of 60 million people, who, if they are kept in their present conditions in this country, might be a source of danger to the peace and prosperity of this country.

Secondly, we are afraid having regard to the very vast and rapid changes that are taking place in the political field of this country and also having regard to the fact that the present Interim Government is functioning in sectors, that our interests may be forgotten and probably ultimately negated. So, we feel that in future the subject of the welfare of the scheduled castes must be made a Central subject and this from two points of view. In the first place, we want to remove ourselves from the troubles and turmoils of provincial clashes between various parties in the provinces and, secondly, God alone knows how the provinces nurse their funds and how they utilise them but they have not enough resources to tackle this big problem. It is for these reasons that we want that the subject of the welfare of the scheduled castes ought to be made a Central subject. In fact, that is one of the demands of the Scheduled Castes Federation. We fear that instead of making it a major problem and a subject for Central Administration what little has hitherto been done is being sought to be taken away. With these words, I move the motion.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved.

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, Sir, I do not belong to the scheduled caste but I wish to say that the Party to which I have the honour to belong has very great sympathy indeed for the scheduled castes and their legitimate rights and demands. I am glad my Honourable friend Mr. Siva Raj has begun to think in terms of rights and not in terms of favours. I only wish that he himself and his Scheduled Castes Federation had thought in terms of rights while we were all fighting for freedom against British Imperialism and for freedom for our country. I wish to remind him of the fact that for the last 27 years it is Mahatma Gandhi who has been exhorting the Harijans themselves and the other scheduled castes to fight for their rights and not to hang on to the coat tails either of British Imperialism or even of Hindu or Muslim Imperialism inside our own country. I am rather surprised at the attitude

Mr. President: I might mention, at this stage, one thing to the Honourable Member. The time for the Unattached Members will be over by 1.15 and I think it would be better if the Honourable Member (Rao Bahadur Siva Raj) has an opportunity of hearing what the Government has to say on this subject. So, speeches may be short.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I shall be brief in my speech. I am surprised that he is thinking that scheduled castes do not belong to the Hindu fold and I cannot agree with him. I have as intimate a contact with scheduled castes as my Honourable friend can possibly claim although he is born in one of them. I can assure him that they consider themselves as Hindus. They may not be belonging to the Brahmanical order, but they certainly belong to the Saktia order. The Congress has been anxious to see that as many scheduled castes people are recruited to the Central Services as well as to the Foreign Service as possible and I myself have suggested to the Honourable Member in charge of that Department that the present qualifications are rather too high and they should be reduced in order to enable scheduled castes to get into them.

As for the Education Department, I have considerable sympathy with what Mr. Siva Raj has said and I do not see any reason why scheduled castes people should be kept away from general scholarships merely because some special scholarships are being offered to them in addition.

In regard to International Conferences, I do agree that scheduled castes people also should be chosen provided they are willing to play the game like all other nationals. But in the recent past we know that our friends, including my Honourable friend Mr. Siva Raj, had been recruited and sent as delegates, but the role that they played was not quite so conducive to our national uplift as we had expected it to be. With these remarks I wish to conclude by saying that the Indian National Congress is second to none; on the other hand, it has taken the lead in trying its best to help these people to come into their own and to enable them also to stand up for their rights and not to run after favours from Attlee, Churchill or anybody else.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj: My Honourable friend is obviously referring to the statement which I am alleged to have made overseas regarding Mahatma Gandhi's leadership. I said then that it was both a lie and a libel.

Dr. P. G. Solanki (Nominated Non-Official). Sir, I heartily endorse the arguments that my Honourable friend Mr. Siva Raj has put before the House. Regarding the scheduled castes, I want to ask one question from my Honourable friends on the Opposition Benches. What is the origin of the scheduled castes and from what time the untouchability has come into this country and who were the people who gave rise to this untouchability in this land of India? I must make it clear that an attack was made upon the Scheduled Castes Federation, by Professor Ranga. Sir, I myself do not belong to any Party but I am a great admirer of the works of Mahatma Gandhi. I do admit that Mahatma Gandhi has awakened the sleeping conscience of the Hindus. I realise that the Congress people and the High Command feel for the scheduled classes and for their uplift; but the bulk of the Hindus are orthodox, fanatical and keen on preserving their own superiority in society and specially over these neglected scheduled castes who are hated all over India. I admit that the movement of Mahatma Gandhi has given a great impetus to the Hindus who were half-hearted; either they had to go over to Mahatma-Gandhi's way of thinking or to keep aloof. The result is that Hindu society is divided. In Gujrat the Vaishnavites and the Maharajahs are the most orthodox.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is happening in Madras? Look at the temple entry movement there.

Dr. P. G. Solanki: But temple entry is not going to fill their hungry mouths. They want to maintain themselves and their children, they want education,

clothing and all other necessities of life. I do, as I said, appreciate what the Congress people have been doing, but even there we have members and members. It has been my experience in Gujrat that one who puts on a white cap and a khaddar dress is the worst enemy of the scheduled classes. In Surat and other districts in Gujrat not one single temple has been opened to them, although Prof. Ranga wants to take credit for that. Temples may be opened in Madras but that is not going to have any magic effect on the scheduled classes in Gujrat. And let me tell you that these scheduled classes in Gujrat are much more ardent in their devotion to God than the so-called Hindus. My Honourable friend Rao Bahadur Siva Raj said that it is the imperialism of the Brahmins which the scheduled classes do not like. And I as a great admirer of Brahmins say that they ought to shed their superior mentality. I look on people who really feel for us as our friends but I am for co-operation not only with the Hindus but even with Muslims. I must admit that we are grateful to the Muslims too because under their rule, under the rule of the powerful Moghul emperors and others our people were not molested and persecuted as they have been persecuted under Hindu rule. What had happened in Poona city when Shanwar Wada's foundation was laid. A book has been published and circulated in which it has been stated that the children of mahars—little infants—were buried in the foundations of the Shanwar Wada of Poona. If any one denies that there are people who can come forward to prove it. But those days are gone; the Peshwas have gone to the dogs and now under British rule there has been some enlightenment and awakening amongst the scheduled classes. Had it not been for the missionaries and for English advent and rule I do not think the fate of the scheduled classes would have improved: What do you find in villages even now? I am prepared to show any of my Honourable friends who will take the trouble to come with me to see how these people are treated there even now. I tell you that in my own village I cannot use the village well; I cannot get a tonga driven by Hindus; and if a Muslim tongawala takes me these Hindus will tell him not to do so. All this may surprise Prof. Ranga; but I can show these happenings in Gujrat to him. In the district Kaira of the Honourable Home Member and in other districts of Gujrat and in Kathiawar States, the scheduled classes are not allowed to enjoy any elementary rights as human beings. Drinking water even on station platforms is not provided for these Schedule castes. Last session I brought an instance to the notice of the then Railway Member Mr. Asaf Ali; a scheduled class student of the D. A. V. College in District of Lucknow. A student is naturally clean and has good habits and manners—was thirsty because he had come from a long distance to catch the train one station near Lucknow. Not finding any water for the scheduled classes he drank water from a bucket which he saw there on the platform containing water. The result was that the station master came out of his room and slapped him and handled him roughly and forced him to pay the price of that bucket and a fine in addition to it. Mr. Asaf Ali was good enough to reply to my short notice question in the last session. I am told such short notice questions are not replied without collecting information. Mr. Asaf Ali's reply to me in his letter promised to look into the matter. Unfortunately he is not here now and Dr. John Matthai is here in his place. Dr. Matthai comes from Southern India and knows the plight of the scheduled classes there. He should have sympathy with them and help them. I hope he will refer to my short notice question and do the needful. It is the persecution by the Hindus which has driven in the past, the scheduled castemen into the Muslim and Christian folds. The Congress says scheduled castes are only six crores; some others say they are not even six crores but only two crores. They are dwindling the actual number of scheduled classes by returning them as Hindus and thus add their population to the Hindus in general. I fear that the latest move is to deprive scheduled classes of their rights and reservations which they got in the last 25 years. What will be the plight of these unfortunate scheduled classes? The foreign Government was in India and they naturally

Mr. President: Order, order I am afraid the Honourable Member is going much beyond the scope of the motion. He need not go into the political issues or the previous history, he may discuss measures of welfare.

Dr. P. G. Solanki: Even as regards welfare I appeal to the Member in charge to provide them good houses, food, education and medical relief, and all other amenities and comforts of life. Special steps should be taken by the Government to give them such education as will bring them up to the same level with the children of the privileged Hindu classes.

Sir, I have nothing to say against the Muslims because they had tried to help these poor people when they had power—out of fellow feeling and compassion as human beings. The Hindus profess to call scheduled caste people as coreligionists but they have rampled us down. In my younger days I used to hear that the depressed classes were beyond the pale of Hinduism and now I hear Congress saying that they are part of Hindu Society. Thus they have them in the Hindu nomenclature. I appeal to the Honourable Member in charge to give all the rights and amenities to these neglected depressed classes people as early as possible. Sir, I support the motion.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting): Sir, with much that has been said by my Honourable friends over there Government have got the fullest sympathy, and I do not think it was necessary or advisable for my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga to put in a defence. It must be admitted that it is a case which is wholly indefensible, and we are ashamed to admit that it is more or less a blot on our society. There is no defence for the crime for which society is responsible. It is better that we recognize that fact and see what we can do to remove the blot as expeditiously as possible. With all that sympathy for the cause, I feel considerable difficulty in a variety of ways. We have just come to our own. For 200 years in this country there has been foreign rule. My Honourable friend over there says 'but for the British rule we would not have been able to make this progress'. God knows what would have happened if the foreigners had not come to this

land. That is difficult to say. But the world has not stayed where it was, and India would not have stayed where it was. The foreigners, for the sake of easy administration and removal of difficulties from their own path, created a situation in this country where everything was kept in a sort of a stalmate, and they did not interfere in the social or other customs or other matters; the progress was practically nil as the Prime Minister in England himself admitted when he said 'what have we done in 100 years?' We see that in every debate that takes place in the Parliament this issue comes up. They may criticise us, but we have nothing to answer, because we have no defence. But for them also there is no defence. They are more guilty than we are, they have kept in this country several interests and created in the country such situations that in certain matters there was no progress at all. It was their duty within 100 years to bring in legislation and make untouchability penal in this land, but they did not do it because they were foreigners and they were afraid to interfere in this matter. I do not want to go into that. We, as I have told you, have come to our own recently. We have Scheduled Caste ministers in several provinces; they have large blocs of their own representatives; they have brought in the Provinces of the United Provinces, Madras, Central Provinces, and Bombay, bills for the removal of disabilities. I shall at once endorse what has been said by Dr. Solanki about Gujarat. There is always darkness below the lamp, and so in the province where Gandhiji started his movement the situation is bad or perhaps worse than he has described. But in Bombay the Member in charge of the Portfolio—a Scheduled Caste Member—has brought in a Bill, which has been passed. The Bill provides for the punishment of those who infringe its provisions or in any other way offend against the Bill and prevent entry into temples.

In so far as Government is concerned, they can take action in two ways: one is administrative and the other is legislative. So far as administrative action is concerned, certain complaints have been made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Siva Raj, that in foreign service they have practically been excluded and in foreign delegations that have been sent outside they have been practically neglected. I do not know about the delegations that have been sent outside, but I shall look into the matter and see if it is possible to help the Scheduled Caste candidates. If a proper representative is available, certainly we shall be glad to make all possible arrangements. So far as the standard of qualifications is concerned, it is alleged that the standard for foreign service is kept very high. I am afraid that the standard for foreign service cannot easily be lowered without detriment to our cause, but with the progress of education and the number of scholarships that have been given to the Scheduled Caste students to go outside and the scholarships that may be liberally provided in this country for their education, I do not see any reason why we would not be able to train young men from the Scheduled Castes who may be able to discharge their duties efficiently and with credit in foreign countries. Therefore, I have every sympathy for the suggestions that Mr. Siva Raj has made, and we shall do our utmost to see that all impediments or handicaps in their way are removed.

So far as administrative action is concerned, the age limit for service in the case of Scheduled Castes is relaxed; we have allowed three years more in their case. If they are over-age by three years we shall admit them in service. We have relaxed rules about fees and other matters that are ordinarily binding on other classes. Where the selection is made by departments at present—and since it is possible that the same amount of care which we wish to take is not perhaps taken and there may be a legitimate grievance—I have decided to appoint a Board for the selection of candidates to subordinate services which would look after the interest of the Scheduled Castes and minorities so that their grievance may be removed. This will ensure selection more or less on the same lines as is done by the Federal Public Service Commission for other services.

As regards legislative action, you will agree that within the short period of the Ministries' coming in the Provinces, a lot of legislation has been rushed through because we are interested in this matter and particularly because we are very far behind and want the Scheduled Castes to come up to the level so that we may have no distinction of upper and lower classes. I congratulate Mr. Siva Raj for his bold stand that he is not going to ask for any favours or hang on the tail of others, but he has asked his community to rise and go forward. We should encourage them in their sense of self-respect and dignity that they should demand their claims as a matter of right and not as a matter of favour.

So far as the question of facilities for education such as scholarships are concerned, ordinarily equal opportunities are given for all but it is quite possible that with equal opportunities the scheduled classes may not have succeeded. As to how far it is possible to relax these rules in their case, I will inquire into the matter and see if it is possible to help them. In all matters, whether brought before this House by the Honourable Members representing the Scheduled Classes or whether they make suggestions outside, they will receive the most sympathetic consideration. I will see that justice, moral justice, is done to them and they have no cause for any grievance.

Apart from this, I have to say one thing. We are coming very near to freedom and whether we wish it or not we must be prepared for it. At this stage I would like the Scheduled Classes to be ready as quickly as possible to shoulder their burden and responsibilities. After all they want their share, which is their legitimate share and they must have it. Therefore if they want their share they must be prepared for the assimilation or digestion of their share, because power is an indigestible thing. Power is not easily digestible and therefore, though they have a just right to claim their share and perhaps a little more than their share (because they are not strong enough to stand in a line with others to shoulder

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]
 their responsibility), when power is coming they must be prepared to think in terms of equality. The scheduled classes must shed their inferiority complex and think in terms of equality; that is the only way to bring them in line with others as speedily as possible. I have all my sympathy for them. Once more I give my assurance that so long as we are here we shall do our best to see that no grievance remains so far as the scheduled classes are concerned.

Rao Bahdur N. Siva Raj: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion, in view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Home Member. The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch Till Half Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

DEMAND No. 16 —DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
Language Policy of All-India Radio

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan).
 Sir, I move:

(The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 11th March, 1947. English translation given below.—*Ed. of d.*)

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, First of all I thank you for your ruling which gives true interpretation of the feelings of Indians. The question of India's independence is as closely connected with the freedom of the national language as body with the garment. Sir, I feel great pleasure in speaking in my mother-tongue. I am trying, that Rajaji also may understand my language. I hope Rajaji who championed the cause of Hindi in Madras must have acquired so much ability as to understand Hindustani. This thought, therefore, makes me very happy.

Mr. President: May I request the Honourable Member to speak a little more slowly so that the Reporters may follow the speech and Members who are not so conversant with this high flown Urdu may also follow it to some extent.

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: My time is being wasted. I hope I shall try, according to your order, to present my views in the simplest language so that members from Madras may also understand. I have not mentioned Khwaja, Nazimuddin and Bengal because, I understand, Bengal is in Pakistan and its language is Urdu. I was saying that it is a matter for happiness that I am speaking in my own language. You may recall that two years ago I gave notice of a motion in this House that we may be allowed to speak in our mother tongue, but it could not be discussed then. Everything has a time for its fulfilment and now the day has come when my desire is fulfilled. I consider it my good luck that I am the first person from the Muslim League Party to speak in the mother tongue.

Sir, through you I desire to assure the Member for Broadcasting and Information that I have not moved this cut motion, which has been named by his Department 'Katauti' (meaning deduction) to censure his Department. It is not my object. Nor do I wish to vex the people who speak other tongues. This is not my purpose at all. This motion has been brought so that the question may be discussed at length and the language policy adopted by him may be reviewed in the light of our discussion. I and the members of my party will be extremely happy and even it will be a cause of happiness to you if Hindi buds and blossoms. We do not want to oppose other languages. We want to know what language policy was followed by your predecessors especially two of them who deserve

mention, namely, Sir Sultan Ahmed and Sir Akbar Hydari. You know that Sir Sultan Ahmed was a Minister of the Government and we censured those who sat on the Government benches. What sort of time was it when we spoke of the occupiers of the Treasury Benches that they danced at the instance of the White Hall. We also used to say that they were the representatives of a Satanic Government. Now we have to see what decision has been given in respect of the language policy by our top-leader, a responsible man who is at present holding the post. I remember because I was a Member of the Committee which Sir Akbar Hydari set up and to which Mr. K. M. Munshi, President of Hindi Sahitya Sammelan sent a note. All this happened in my presence. At that time also it was thought necessary for the good of India that there should be one language which may be understood by people from Khyber Pass to Cape Camoron and from Karachi to Chittagong. It was our effort then and it should be our effort for the future that we should have one language for our country which may be understood by all its people. Sir, there is no need to give many proofs to establish the status which Urdu enjoys among the languages of India. It is true that to our misfortune our country has so many languages and dialects that, perhaps, no other country possesses. We have, however, to find out if there is a language which may become the medium of expressing and conveying our views to other people. We must find out how Urdu came into being. Who made it? When we turn the pages of the Indian history we find that during the time of Mahatma Buddha, Arab Merchant used to come to India. They traded on the coast of India which is the home of Rajaji. The result of this association of Arabs and Indians was that some Arabic words came into use here. This was the foundation of this language in India. After that Muhammad son of Qasim came to Sindh and for a time Sindh remained under the Arabs. Historians

say

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural). To which language does the word 'Historian' belong?

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: Since you would not have understood, the word 'Muwwarakhin' so 'historian' was used. I was saying that it was very difficult at that time to distinguish an Arab from a Sinhi. Later when Boguls and Chengez Khan came they brought Turkish with them. The language of India at that time was Brij Bhasha which enjoyed the same position as Urdu enjoys today. Mahmood Ghaznavi brought Persian with him. My object in recounting all this is to show that Urdu is made up of many different languages. It cannot be called the language of the Muslims alone because Hindus have always taken a greater part in forming it. It has been called by different names—sometimes Urdu, sometimes Hindi, sometimes Hindustani and sometimes 'Rekhta'. 'Urdu' is a Turkish word. It means an army. In short it flourished and gradually became very popular. It has a power of attraction and it became the common language of India. A dictionary, Farhang-i-Aasia by name contains 54 thousand words in all. My object is to show that Urdu is a mixture of many languages. It contains 22198 Hindi words, 7589 Arabic words, 500 English words, 6041 Persian words and 181 words of Portuguese, Turkish, French etc., 17550 words are from other nationalities but the largest number is from Hindi. Sir, this is the language which I ask the Honourable Member to make the language of our country. You may member and you may refer to the old file that at the time when Mr. Fieldon was here he asked three or four questions from the listeners of radio to find out the number of Urdu listeners and English listeners. From the facts and figures obtained at that time it was found that out of the languages of India listeners of Urdu were in greater majority. It is our misfortune that the listeners in English were in a very large majority. It was to be so because it is the language of our rulers. Slavery is no ingrained in us that we want to listen in the language of our masters instead of in our own language.

[Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan]

An Honourable Member: That time has gone.

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: Yes, that time has passed. By the efforts of my friends Mr. Thakur Das Bhargava, Pundit Pahlwaji and Lala Deshbhandhu Gupta we have seen the day when we are speaking in Urdu and for this I am grateful to them and especially to the President who allowed me to speak here in this language. Probably Sardar Sahib does not like cinema shows but if he would take the trouble and pay a visit to cinemas in Delhi he will see that shows in Urdu draw greater houses than those in other languages. Sir, the Honourable Minister is acting on the policy of making Hindi the language of the country. With due deference I would request him not to act upon this policy because he knows that in All-India Radio Urdu-knowing personnel that is, Muslims are less in number. Muslims have not got employment there under the 1934 scheme. The result of this policy will be that Hindi will spread in different places and Hindi staff will have to be increased and the complaint of the Urdu-knowing people will remain as it is now—nay it will increase since no Hindi-knowing Muslim will be available for employment there. Sir, it is a pity that in places like Lucknow and Delhi where Urdu was born; and where it budded and blossomed they desire to give 60 per cent to 70 per cent to Hindi. You might know that at the time when Delhi became desolate Mir Taqi Mir went to Lucknow where poets were still honoured. There in a mushaira (a meeting at which poets recite their poems) where nobody knew him he recited these couplets:

“O people of the east why ask of our abode in jest; taking us as strangers
Delhi, the chosen city of the world; the abode of the cream of the
age which has been laid waste by fate, is the gloomy place to
which we belong”

Sir, these are the places where, even in the present age, Hindu poets still exist in appreciable number. I do not talk of the poets of the past. Even at the present time there are Hindu poets who hold a higher station than many of the Muslim poets.

I want to say in this connection that so far as language is concerned Urdu language is spoken from Khwber Pass to Cape Camorin. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru says “Urdu is a sacred inheritance come down to both Hindus and Muslims from their ancestors and it is absolutely indivisible.” This is the opinion of Sir Sapru. Member for External Affairs, I mean Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, who is not present in the House, was once asked by certain Nationalist Muslims regarding the opinion of Mahatma Gandhi who had said that Muslims must learn Hindi and Hindus must learn Urdu. They asked him whether Mahatma Gandhi meant that Urdu was the language of the Muslims whereas it was the language of the Indians. Punditji differed from Gandhiji's opinion and said that he should not have said that; he should have rather said that those who know Urdu should learn Hindi and those who know Hindi should learn Urdu. There is nothing against learning languages. Punditji further said that he was an Indian and that Urdu was the language of his family and his mother tongue. He had learnt English in England but that had made no difference in his mother tongue.

These two are the worthy sons of India, in whom Indians will always take pride. I would therefore request the Member for Broadcasting and Information to review his decision and restore the prestige of Urdu as it enjoyed in the past. Twenty minutes are about to be over and I close my speech, Sir, with following couplet:

“O Asad, if there is any means of friendship between the Shaikh and
the Brahmin, it is Urdu language.”

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

“That the demand under the head ‘Department of Information and Broadcasting’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa; Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the motion which has been very ably moved by my learned friend Nawab Siddiq Ali Khan. I do not want to indulge in the question of the origin of the language. I would only content myself by saying, as has been very ably shown to the House, that Urdu is a common heritage of this country and it belongs to both the Hindus and the Muslim who form the biggest majority of the population of this country. It is the only language which has assumed the position of the *lingua franca* in this country and is probably understood and spoken by the largest majority living in this land. I would now draw the attention of the Honourable the Home Member to one fact, and it is this that with the advent of the Interim Government, which is presumed to be a national government, we had expected that the so-called claim for the Hindustani language would receive a better treatment than it had received in the past. Different Parties in this country and particularly the Congress Party have been claiming that Hindustani was the real language of this country and it was also a common heritage. But soon after the Department was taken charge of by the Honourable the Home Member we have unfortunately begun to notice that other elements have intervened and recently innovation has been made by which a division has been made between Urdu and Hindi, and the percentage given to Urdu is ridiculously low. I have reason to say this is in a place like Lucknow, which has been the centre of Urdu culture, the proportion of Urdu is nearly 20 per cent. What we suspect is that this policy has been worked up for purposes other than those which have been claimed for Hindi language. As the Mover of the cut motion said, we have no quarrel with the advancement of any particular language but what we feel is this. It will adversely affect the entire character of the All-India Radio and the composition of the staff therein. The Honourable the Home Member himself knows that in this country it is very difficult to find a Muslim who would also be an adept in Hindi, although it has not been difficult to find Hindus who are also adept in Urdu as Urdu is common language here. The result will be that it will adversely affect the percentage of Muhammadan employees, which has already shrunk and is disappointing. I would just give the Honourable Member a casual figure which has been given to me. In the higher posts the position of Muslims is like this: Chief Engineer, nil; Assistant Engineer, nil; Engineer-in-Chief (high power transmission), nil; Research officers, nil, Gazetted posts of the rank of Station Engineers, 4 per cent. only; Assistant Engineers, less than 8 per cent; Technical Assistants, less than 7 per cent. (Interruption) My Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir says "what has this got to do with the language?" I have already said that what we are afraid of is that it will entirely change the composition of the All-India Radio in the matter of staff and everything else, because language is the principal subject on which depends the entire development of the All-India Radio organisation.

I would not like to refer in great detail to the news items, but I would remind the Honourable the Home Member about the correspondence which he had with my Honourable friend and colleague, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang. I refer to his letter dated the 25th February 1947 and Syed Sahib's reply dated the 8th March 1947. I have got those letters with me but I do want to read them to the House. I would, however, only refer to this point. Although the Honourable the Home Member was trying to argue in favour of the fact that no prejudicial treatment was meted out to the news relating to the Muslim League leaders, he had to confess himself in one place that in the case of the news of a certain statement made by Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar in Patna on the 6th it was not possible to put it as a news on the 7th November 1946 because Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar was in Delhi on that day. I do not think it is a good argument. Then, he also said something about certain statements of Qasid-e-Asam Jinnah which were very concise. I

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

am speaking about the composition of the Relief Committee. The All-India Radio gave the composition of the names but did not give out the short statement which the Qaed-e-Azam had made. The position, however, could not be made very clear in the correspondence that the Honourable the Home Member had with Syed Sahib. By mentioning all these facts what I want to impress upon the House is that we feel that there has been a sort of prejudicial treatment against the Muslim League. I shall be glad if the Honourable Member will at least make us feel that this inference of ours is not correct or that this impression which has been created in the minds of the Muslim members has not got a very strong grounds.

Then, Sir, I would also refer to another incident which has been brought to my notice. It is said that certain officers of the All-India Radio who were Arabs have been sent to Arab countries on propaganda work. They have been asked to induce the Arabs to attend the Conference which is being organised by the Congress group. This, again, gives the impression that the All-India Radio organisation is being treated not on the basis of being a national asset or being an organisation which is paid by the tax-payers of this country, but is being maintained for the welfare of a certain class of politicians or a particular community. I have been rather frank in my statements because I hope the Honourable the Home Member will try to give us an adequate reply to the effect that we have not got very good grounds for the suspicion that we are having. So these two officers were particularly sent for this purpose.

Mr. President: I am afraid the Honourable Member is going into a subject which is not relevant to the question under discussion. The cut motion has been moved to raise a discussion on the language policy of the All-India Radio and not the policy of sending employees to foreign countries for propaganda.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I submit to the Ruling of the Chair. About the language policy, as I said, we do not feel that it can be split up into two sections of so called Hindustani for which the Congress has

3 P.M. been fighting for or making bold claims, that is splitting it into Hindi and Urdu, at the same time giving a very small proportion to Urdu which is spoken and understood by nearly 70 to 80 per cent of the population of this country. As the Honourable Mover has rightly pointed out, Urdu is not associated with any religious sentiment of Muslims, nor can it be said to be of Islamic origin. It is a combination of all the languages that have been in existence in this country. Words have been taken from Sanskrit, from Persian and from other ancient and primitive languages. This constitutes the Urdu literature. With the advent of political reforms in this country, with the advent of national government in this country, I should feel that the real policy of such a government should be to give an impetus to a language which is the common heritage of both Hindus and Muslims, who form the biggest majority population. Instead of doing this, we are really surprised to learn of the move recently adopted to bisect the language and then again give a very small proportion of talk in Urdu which is the language claiming a large number of adherents in this country and which has the highest reputation in this country. I do not want to indulge in giving particular phrases or words which are used in radio broadcast. It may take a long time. It will also be difficult for me to reproduce the exact phrases and words. I must bring home to the House that there is a definite impression in the country that the policy pursued by the All-India Radio is definitely prejudicial to the interests of the people who claim Urdu as their mother tongue. In conclusion I suggest that the All-India Radio should follow the policy which has been pursued in the past and the policy which has been outlined recently by bisecting the languages into Hindi and Urdu and giving a small proportion to Urdu should be abandoned. With these words, I support the motion.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muham-madan Urban): (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 11th March, 1947, English Translation given below.—*Ed. of D.*)

Sir, with your permission I have, for the first time, found an opportunity to speak here in my own language. I congratulate my friend, Nawab Siddiq Ali Khan for the clear voice and the high level with which he gave expression to his sentiments. He tried not to give voice to any narrow communal sentiments in his speech. Placing his ideals on national basis he supported the case of Urdu to make it the *lingua franca* of India. I congratulate him heartily for his excellent effort and I express my gratefulness for all that he has said. But, the thoughts which he has expressed about the origin of languages in India, I feel, do not stand to reason and are not historically sound. He said that some merchants from Arabia came to our country and foreign words got mixed with our language. This he said was the beginning of the Urdu language. With due deference I would request my friend kindly to see the book 'Linguistic Survey' by Sir George Greason, the eminent Linguistic scholar. Sir George writing most authentically about the origin of the Indian languages said that all the Indian languages including those that are spoken in provinces are Aryan in origin except three languages namely, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu. I believe Sir George's statement is not based on shallow research but from the point of view of a scholar of history he wrote what he saw. The respective languages spoken in the different Provinces of India such as, Mahratti, Gujrati, Kanarese, Rajasthani, Bihari, Bengali, Assamese, Oriya, Punjabi, Sindhi and even Pushtoo are all derived from Aryan languages. You will be surprised to hear that my friend Abdul Ghani Sahib drinks 'Paya' and not 'doodh' in Pushtoo. We say 'we are going to *gaon*' (a village); they say 'we are going to *gram*'.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: (North West Frontier Province: General): I do not know what the Honourable member is speaking about me. He must speak in a language which I understand.

Mr. President: Let the Honourable member proceed.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Such excellent Sanskrit words are still found in Pushtoo. Sir, the question of language has unfortunately become very complicated in our country. The cause of this complication is not that Hindus and Muslims of this country are, in obstinacy, engaged in foolish discussions—nay the cause is historical. I do not want to go into details of these causes but I want to say it in a few words that if we want to make a language the *lingua franca* of India we will have to see which of the existing languages contains more Sanskrit words because only that language can become the *lingua franca* and will be understood in all the provinces of India. Bengali, Bihari, Assamese and Oriya are parts of Hindi while Gujrati, Mahratti, Kanarese, Sindhi, Rajasthani, Tamil, Telugu and other Dravidian dialects contain a large number of Sanskrit words. That is why the people of all the provinces of India—Hindus and Muslims understand only that language which contains more Sanskrit words. They never understand a language which is not seasoned with Sanskrit. I always speak in Hindi in the sessions of All-India Congress Committee. I was surprised when some of the delegates including Shrimati Kamala Devi told me that they could understand what I speak, but they could not understand what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru speaks. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is peerless. He speaks pure Urdu which flows from the lips of the Maulana like the pure water of the Ganges and we relish his speech. We respect eloquent Urdu which produced poets like Zauq and Ghalib. Who would not esteem a language which produced a poet like Allama Iqbal? But, to insist that Urdu is the *lingua franca* of this country is absolutely unjust. I suggest that we should recognize two languages—Urdu and

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Hindi—as our national languages. For God's sake do not try to promote an in accurate and non-sensical thing under the name of 'Hindustani'. I am afraid on account of this 'Hindustani' questions will come before us which will create great complication. You will have to coin new words. You will have to compile a dictionary for the people. You cannot keep your masses illiterate. You have to add to their knowledge. But, from where will you get your words? My friend, Mr. Siddiq Ali will pardon me if I tell him from the historical point of view, Urdu has been a fertile ground for narrow and communal views. Sharar has rightly said, "O Sharar, the nightingale of Sheraz envies Nasikh; the streets of Lucknow have now become Isphahan."

The progress of Urdu has been based on the principle of dropping Hindi words from the language of the country. Unfortunately, at one time the theory of obsolescence was made the drop of progress of Urdu. Once the Muslim poets of Deccan started expressing their views in Hindi and they used Hindi and Sanskrit words but soon after efforts were made to drop the language of the country. Urdu has, unfortunately, been fed by the theory of obsolescence and the dropping of Hindi words. What else is this, if it is not our misfortune? Today, our Muslim brethren are not to be blamed if they take no pride in the Sanskrit, the civilization and the ancestors of their country. They honour Rustom and Sohrab and take pride in them although in the eyes of the orthodox they were infidels, but they take no pride in Bhim and Arjun who are their true ancestors. Sir, unfortunately in this country, I do not know, for whose sins—may be for the sins of caste Hindus,—Indian Muslim have non-Indian views and bear hatred to the civilization of this country. Hatred has penetrated deep in the minds of the Indian Muslims. With due respect I would request my friends, Nauman Sahib and Siddiq Ali Sahib that they should come out of the error in which they have been living all along. Let us both try to raise to the Zenith of progress, the civilization, the language and the literature of our country. Whichever is the language of the country whether Urdu or Hindi you will have to make drastic changes in it. For instance, let us take Urdu to make it the language of the country. You will have to change its form. This form will conform with Sanskrit, the language of the country. A language with a generous sprinkling of Sanskrit can be the *lingua franca* of India. We can draw upon Sanskrit for our new words. We will not have to look upon either Persian or Arabic for such words. Try to teach your children pure *desi* words. It will be right and proper if our children use *sapekshawad* instead of 'Relatively'. Word '*Sāpekshawad*' sits us. It will widen our civilization. My complaint to the Home Member is that he has presented Hindi in an uncouth manner and ugly form. They have killed Hindi. It is most improper and a great injustice to Hindi. My friend just now said that Government have been unjust to Urdu. It is not so. The new declaration of policy recently announced shows that in Peshawar they have given no place to Hindi, only Hindustani has been given one per cent while Urdu has got 50 per cent. In Lahore, out of the 75 per cent. they have given only 15 per cent to Hindi. In Bombay, Calcutta and Dacca Hindustani Hindi and Urdu have been given equal places. In fact, injustice has been done to Hindi. If a Department of Government labours under the misconception of inventing a new language that Department lives in Fools' Paradise, I have not much time so I do not want to go into details. Mr. President has rung the bell intimating that my time is over and I resume my seat.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in this country for a long time we have had to plead that Indians should be able to have the right to govern themselves; we have had to plead that we should be free from alien political domination. Today, Sir, we have to stand and plead—those who are at least 75 per cent. in this land have to

plead—that their language, a language which has come down from the hoary past and which for millenniums has been spoken and understood and developed by the natives of this land, should not be killed or injured. It is an unnatural state of things. There is no question of any communal element about this matter; there is no idea of any rivalry or ill-will towards any section or community or towards any language. It is a simple matter of fact, of simple common sense, and of the simple requirements of the people of this land. My Hon'ble friends Mr. Siddique Ali Khan and Mr. Nauman, both of whom I congratulate on the felicitous and pleasant manner in which they have presented their case, have pleaded that in the All-India Radio language policy, Hindustani—they have not denied that they meant "Hindustani" to stand for Urdu—should continue to have the place which it has had. Sir, I have no quarrel with Urdu. I should be happy to see it develop much more than it has developed so far. But, Sir, if Urdu has to develop at the cost of Hindi, if it has to drive out Hindi from Hindustani, country of Hindus,—mind you, Sir, we are not living in Arabia, we are not living in Iran, we are not living in a country the indigenous language of which has been either Arabic or Persian,—I plead, Sir, that if the development of Urdu means that in this country there should be no Hindi, if it means that in this country children of the soil who have been bred and brought up in traditions of old Hindu culture should not be able to listen to words which for thousands and thousands of years their forebears have used and which have been familiar to them, I will confess that I will have no sympathy with such a proposal.

Sir, it has been stated today by the mover of this cut motion that the number of muslims employed in the A.I.R. is already very low and that if Hindi is given a place in the A.I.R. programmes, new appointments will have to be made thereby further reducing the already inadequate number of muslim employees. Now, Sir what has been the position? Ever since the All-India Radio came into existence, ever since Mr. Fielden was the first Controller, we had an Assistant Controller, Prof. Bokhari, who was a devoted scholar and protagonist of Urdu. He was innocent of Hindi. He developed the whole organisation in a manner that there was practically no room for Hindi in it. Sir, as long ago as 1940, in reply to some questions in this very House the then Honourable Member in charge, Sir Andrew Clow, gave answers which indicated that out of four Hindustani news translators employed by the All-India Radio to prepare Hindi news bulletins none had any experience of Hindi journalism while three of them had experience of Urdu journals. To select these translators the Radio authorities called 80 Muslims and 16 Hindus. This was in 1940. The position today is, if any thing worse. Only a few months back in reply to another question in this House, the Honourable Member in charge stated—I am reading from Vol. VII—No. 1, page 74 of Assembly debates, dated 28th October 1946—The total number of members of the Hindustani staff possessing degrees or Diplomas in Hindi in the A.I.R. Delhi Station was two, and in Urdu it was 22. The number of degrees or diploma holders in the Hindustani staff who had as their first language Hindi was three, and those who had as their first language Urdu was 21. Number of posts held in Hindustani programme Section by middle pass persons:

Hindi (1) Permanent	.	.	.	.	.	—
(2) Temporary	.	.	.	.	.	4
Urdu (1) Permanent	.	.	.	.	.	5
(2) Temporary	.	.	.	.	.	26

In the totals there were 14 Hindi, 48 Urdu; 18 Hindi, 49 Urdu; 3 Hindi, 12 Urdu; 17 Hindi, 65 Urdu.

This was a few months back. That was with regard to the staff. I do not think any comments are needed.

Then, there is another difficulty. Even the Hindu portion of the staff have been so selected that they know Urdu but do not know Hindi. Unfortunately in this country a communal colour is given to things. Therefore the question

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was dealt with as one of employment ratio between Hindus and Mussalmans. But the trouble was that even the Hindus who were appointed as these figures will show did not know Hindi; they were scholars, they were experts they were devotees of Urdu; they did not know Hindi. What is essential is that the correct proportion of the total staff should be scholars of Hindi who should be able to do justice to it. Actually, if I may give an instance. The All-India Radio publishes two magazines about its programme—*Awaz* and *Sarang*. Now, Sir, for the Hindi magazine the gentleman who was appointed Editor, did not know Hindi. That is how things have gone on. If I had time I would have shown by further figures and other details how these things have gone on.

Sir, the result of all this has been, if I may crave the indulgence of this House, that the Hindustani that we have been getting from the All-India Radio has been like this. Sometime back the Lucknow station announced a forthcoming *kavi sammelan*, and the announcer took the trouble to explain it to the listeners as, "Hindi zuban ka mushaira" and went on to add, "*Is shero sukhn ki mahfil men sare Hindostan ke mashhur shora hissa lenge*"

This was a *kavi sammelan* being announced! There was another item sometime, a little gramophone music—Hindu devotional music—from the South which was announced as

"*Iska musannif janabi Hindostan ka mashhur ustad Natraj hai. Devi ki puja se jo masarrat paida hui hai uska ismat-i-ishar kiya gaya hai.*"

Other words commonly used by the A.I.R. are of similar nature. As example I can mention

Maghrib and *Mashrik*, *majun-i-murakhhab*, *Bahar-i-Taghazul*, *samsama-i-Taghazul*, *Bazm-i-Tarab*, *Kaif-o-naishat*, *Jahul-ul-Qadar*, *Bazm-i-Tasawwar*; etc.

poured out. If a poll were taken it would be found that not even 5 per cent. of the total population of India could understand it. Leave alone the common uneducated man, even among men with high education only a very small percentage can follow such high flown Arabicised and Persianised Urdu. And all this goes by, the name of 'Hindustani'. I could give hundreds of similar illustrations of the language used by the All-India Radio. But, I have no time to go into these details. If that is the language which is being broadcast, I will appeal to my Honourable friends, Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan and Mr. Nauman, and other friends, to tell us if it is justice to the people of this country. Many things have been referred to which I should have liked to go into, but the little time allowed will not permit of my doing so. Therefore all that I will say is that a grave injustice has been done so far to the people of this country. As I said at the beginning, there is no communal aspect about this. This country stands for a particular thing. This country has had a particular culture; a particular civilization; it has a certain name and a certain position among the nations of the world. The tradition and feature of that culture have been that every section of the people has an honoured place in it:—Mussalmans, Hindus, Christians, Parsis, Jews, every one. But, Sir, the country as a whole has stood before the world as one particular picture. Let us not destroy that picture. When a man wants to tune in India, he may be sitting in New York or anywhere else in the world, the picture he wants to conjure up before his mind's eye is not of Iran, not of Persia, not of the bulbul, and not of the *nargis*, but of the India which has come down from thousands and thousands of years, of the *kolila* and of the *lotus*, of the *Shri Pada Charan* and of the *Kamalapatra*. It is as important a heritage

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: The whole of India is not Benares!

Pandit Govind Malaviya: of my Honourable friend, the Khan Mr. Abdul Ghani, as it is mine, and if my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan, will only look at it from the correct perspective he will realize that while the Shri Pada Charan and the Kamalapatra continue, there will be no difficulty about Pashto also existing,

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: What is shricharan?

Pandit Govind Malaviya: But that if, the old and ancient civilization and culture of this land and the honour that India has always evoked, were to go down, nobody any where would care either about Pashto or about Urdu. Whatever we may do therefore, let us not destroy the India which she has always been by ruining its outward form—the language of at least 75 per cent. of her people.

Now, Sir, there is this decision which the Government have announced. I am sorry that on the basis of this Resolution, which we feel does not do even far justice to the cause of Hindi, criticism is being levelled against the Government. If there were time I would have shown item by item how this Resolution of the Government falls short of what should have been done. In very many ways it is not only hard against but actually unfair and unjust towards Hindi and towards the people whose language is Hindi and who contribute more than three-fourth of the total funds for running this department. This decision does not accept even the unanimous decisions which had been arrived at by a Committee which the previous government had appointed, on which both Hindus and Muslims, both Urdu and Hindi protagonists, were represented. It modifies even those unanimous decisions and it does not take decisions on other points at all. Yet today we find that this has been attacked here and outside as a communal move on the part of the Government. I feel that this is wrong and unjust.

Sir, I wish to submit, like my Honourable friend Pt. Balakrishna Sharma, that Hindi and Urdu should both be allowed to develop on independent lines. If the Government must continue its effort to create a new third language, we have no objection to it. Indeed, we shall be happy. But that language, as my friend said, must be a language which will draw its support from the indigenous part of this land, a language which will be such as will be understood by the average man every where.

My Honourable friend Mr. Nauman said that Urdu is the language which is understood by the largest majority. I am reminded here of the figures given by no other than Prof. Bokhari to the Standing Advisory Committee. Leaving aside a number of other things which would add to the number, he said that 7,75,88,785 people understood Hindi and 57,04,377 understood Urdu. Those were the figures given by no other than Prof. Bokhari. According to many others the figure of those who understand Hindi in this country comes to 22 crores atleast. But let us leave that alone. Even assuming Prof. Bokhari's figures to be correct, the language of eight crores of people should have some place as against the language of 57 lakhs of people. Therefore if Hindustani is to continue, it should be of such a nature that everybody should be able to understand it. I do not want that it should be filled up with a large number of high and difficult Sanskrit words which only a few may follow. Let it be composed of simple words which everybody will understand. But what is essential is that if new words should have to be found to express ideas, then let them be drawn from the indigenous background, from the language of India, and not from outside. What I beg is that Hindi should not be killed, the ancient language and culture and tradition of this land should not be killed. Let not injustice be done to 75 per cent. of the people.

Sir, my time is up. I have done. Shame itself, Sir, would blush to think that to keep up a foreign, an extraneous tradition; to keep up an exotic language which has no root in the soil; to keep up a language which not more than probably a crore of people in one corner of the land can follow; 22 crores of people of

[Pandit Govind Malviya]

this land should be made to suffer and upon their heads should be foisted the burden, not only the intellectual and linguistic burden, but also the financial and the cultural burden, and strain, of having to carry on their shoulders a language which they do not understand and which they do not follow and which has no relation with their life, either social, cultural, religious or sentimental. Sir, I earnestly beg my Honourable friend to think over the matter and not to press the cut motion he has moved.

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural): (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 11th March, 1947, English Translation given below.—*Ed. of D*)

Sir, as the question of language is before the House I think it proper to speak in the language I believe should be recognised as the national language of India and all Indians should speak in it forgetting the foreign language. I am not enamoured of it nor is it my desire to speak in a language which for its Arabic, Persian or Sanskrit words cannot be understood by our masses, by our people in the bazars and by the labourers. I will, therefore, speak in a language which I hope every Indian brethren will understand.

My learned friend Pandit Balkrishna Sharma who hails from my Province spoke in a language the 10th part of which, I desire to assure him, I could not understand. If of the language I am speaking Pandit Bakr.shan Sharma says that he has not understood the 10th part of it or that he has understood only the 10th part of it I will admit that I have committed an excess. I believe that only that language can be the common language of India which is spoken by the people and in which they transact their business. I do not call that language the common language of India which is coined by somebody with a desire to invent a language. Language is that which is actually spoken and by which a person can make himself understood to others. The question of Hindi and Urdu on which a discussion has begun here I believe is the result of our going on the wrong path. We must adopt only the language which we daily use in our homes. If we leave it and begin to speak in the languages of the learned—whether of Sanskrit or of Arabic or of Persian—which cannot be understood by the masses, we are wrong. Urdu and Hindi have been brought before the House in a particular way. In my opinion both have misunderstood each other. Regarding Urdu I say that the meaning of Urdu is Cantonment. When the armies of Emperor Shah Jehan gathered together in one place from all parts of India and began to live together the soldiers talked together in different languages in the Cantonment. Gradually a common language emerged and it was named Urdu because everybody in the Emperor's Cantonment could understand it. The Army of Emperor Shah Jehan had Turanis, Iranis, Rajputs, Hindustanis, Pathans, Bengalis, Gujratis, Mahrattas in short men from all places. Their commingling together and talking with each other caused the emergence of a language which everybody could understand. Just as you see in the Cantonment that a bread dealer can speak some English and speaks a mixed language which is not his tongue: this language is called Urdu. Muslims who came from foreign countries spoke Arabic or Persian they never spoke Urdu. All other languages are contained in Urdu or Hindustani. Aryans who came here at first were not the natives of India. My friend Pandit Govind Malaviya has said that we should adopt the indigenous language. Panditji probably knows that when Aryans came they brought one or the other language, with them. Sanskrit is not the original language of India. Aryans are not aborigines of India. They came from a foreign place. Sanskrit was probably brought by them. When they came here they did not use Sanskrit with the aborigines. Sanskrit was not being spoken here even before the coming of the Muslims. There were *Pali, Gujrati or Bhasha* in use. Sanskrit has never been the language of the people in India. It was the language of the Brahmins and they did not allow others to read it—nay its reading by others was a crime.

Prince Dara Shikoh took permission to study Sanskrit and translated into Persian some important Sanskrit books including Upanishads. The Upanishads were thus brought before the world otherwise nobody knew them. Most probably some American or German scholar might have translated them from Sanskrit; but now it has been translated in English, Persian and Arabic. My object in recounting all this is to prove that Sanskrit has never been the spoken language of India. It is not found in use in India 1,500 years ago—may not even 2,500 years ago. The whole of the literature of Buddhism is in Pali. Sanskrit was not spoken during the time of His Holiness Gautam Buddha. The language at that time was Pali. I want to draw the attention of Panditji to the fact that Iranians belong to the same stock to which Aryans belong. They also came from the place from which Aryans came. Persian and Sanskrit both are derived from the same source. It is therefore wrong to say that Persian language has no relation with Sanskrit. I, however, believe that we should not enter into such discussions. We should rather look to our present condition. The fact is that the Muslims brought one language and the Aryans brought another language. Before their coming many languages were prevalent here. By the commingling of all these languages, a language emerged in which I am speaking now in my province in every village and in every home, this language is understood. I believe that if I speak the same language which I am speaking now in C. P. people will understand me. If I speak it in Bihar everybody there will understand me. If I speak it in the Punjab and in Peshawar people will understand me. If Sir Cowasji Jehangir has understood me here I believe the people in Bombay will also understand it. This easy language is Hindustani. Words Hindi and Urdu are misnomers. The word Hindi was introduced by the Arabs. They called the Muslims of this place Hindi Muslims. When I went to Palestine I was introduced to people as a Hindu Muslim. Hindi is understood there as Indian. The fact is that when Muslims came here they called the people of India as Hindus. Later on when they became resident here the Arabs instead of calling them Muslims called them Hindi Muslims. When the English came they called both of us—Hindus and Muslims—Indians. In short, the word is not connected in any way with nationality but it is connected with the country. We should, therefore, speak a language which may become one common language of India and which may be understood by each and every one. We should not say that because you speak this word I will not utter it. And since you have spoken these words in your speech we will select and speak such words in our speech which will not be understood by you. If Pandit Balkrishan Sharma had made the speech which he has made here, in Cawnpore, where majority of people belong to labour class not a single labourer would have understood him. We should therefore speak in a manner that everybody may understand us. At this time when we are going to take over our country we should try to form a language of such easy words as would be understood by each and every person and you may give expression to your thoughts in your speech. It is not necessary that you should speak selected Arabic or Persian words in your speech. Once my friend Mr. Paliwal and I were in a meeting. Mr. Paliwal had brought his speech written in Hindi. I have never read his written speech. I spoke extempore in the language in which I am now speaking. My friend however had written speech in Devnagri but the language was the same as my language. Another gentleman, however, who was the President of the Reception Committee spoke in a language which nobody could understand in the meaning. I could understand only three or four words. I asked the gentleman if the speech he had delivered was prepared as an essay or for the people who were present in that meeting. My object in saying all this is that we should promote the language that we speak everyday. Urdu contains some words from Persian and Arabic and the rest are from other languages. The grammar of the Urdu language is the same as that of Hindi. There may be Sanskrit words in Hindi of which I have no knowledge but the grammar is the same.

[Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan]

Since the Government of India is now in our hands we must have one language. The script may be Urdu or Devnagri. In our Province it has been easily solved. Every person who wants to take up service or law as his profession has to learn both the scripts. The records in the offices have all along been kept in Urdu. They cannot be destroyed now. So it is necessary to learn both Urdu and Devnagri. In our place nobody can be employed as an executive officer unless he knows both the languages. You may call it, instead of Urdu, Hindustani or any other *Bhasha*, I would not mind it. I want to say that the language should be one with two scripts. We must endeavour that the language is not such as can be understood by one person only. Our endeavour should be not to destroy the language which is now being spoken by both Hindus and Muslims.

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) I would like to congratulate the last speaker on the good sense with which he has placed his views before us and also on the fact that his was the only Hindustani speech which I could follow. I do not know whether Sir Cowasjee Jehangir will bear me out, but I certainly feel that the language which the previous speaker employed would find very wide understanding even in the City and Province from which I come.

Now, Sir, as I said, I come from a part of India which can follow simple Hindustani, but which neither speaks the Hindi nor the Urdu language, if the two languages can be classified apart. In fact, I know some people who claim that we from Madras and Bombay alone speak genuine Hindustani, because the language that we speak can be accused of neither being pure Hindi nor being pure Urdu. That, I admit, is rather a negative qualification.

I would like to remind the House that, while we agree with the Government policy that the common language of Hindustani is the one commonly spoken and understood in the northern part of this country and the people of the South may be quite prepared to bow to that and try to learn the common language of the North, their troubles are greatly increased when the people of the North start quarrelling among themselves and claim the adherence of those who are not yet wedded to either group.

Now, Sir, I was distressed at some of the speeches that preceded that of the last speaker. It was particularly depressing to hear some remarks, for instance, that fell from my friend Pandit Govind Malaviya when he referred to Hindustani as "the country of the Hindus." It made me wonder what the rest of us were doing here in that case.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I said they had all an honoured place in India every one of them.

Mr. M. R. Masani: I hope he did not mean it, but he did refer to Hindustani as the land of the Hindus. I think it was a most unfortunate remark to let fall, and I do suggest that he will do much better to bear in mind the words of Iqbal

Hindi ham ham, watan hai Hindustan hamara "

Hindustani, Sir, is the country of the Indians, and not of the Hindus or any other section of the people. Those of us who believe in a United India have to be doubly sure that we do not indulge in expressions which might lend support to the two nation theory.

Now, Sir, the Government's *communiqué* and policy have been attacked and criticised on the one hand by Mr. Nauman and on the other by my friend Mr. Bal Krishna Sharma as erring on one side or the other. I am one of those who do not adhere to either school. I would like to lend my support to the policy that the Government have laid down in their *communiqué* and I do so,

not because I am in a position to judge as to the proportion of the spoken word items that should be broadcast either from Lucknow or Peshawar or Lahore or Delhi, but because the emphasis there is on a common language—Hindustani. I am happy that the Government *communique* says that Government feel that the great body of listeners does not wish that Hindustani should be smothered in the controversy between the protagonists of literary Hindi and literary Urdu." That exactly is the position of the large mass of people of this country, and I particularly support this because radio can be a very effective instrument of mass education. It is in that respect like the cinema, and the cinema industry have in a way set a very good example to the radio and to other instruments of this character, because it is realised by them that the object is to cater to the needs of the masses and not to those of Pandits on both sides. There are many other ways in which Hindi and Urdu can be developed through the written word. The whole field of journalism, of literature and of books is open to them, but these instruments of mass education and propaganda, like the radio and the cinema, should be dedicated to the service of the common people who are interested, not in developing pure literary forms, but in evolving a language which form a common medium of expression for large masses of people.

I would particularly like to draw the attention of the House to the concluding sentence of the *con*

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strike a balance between the
those among them with liter

While there is no doubt that this is a sound policy to follow, I hope that increasingly the emphasis will be on the great body of listeners and not on those who want to develop their literary taste. It was from this point of view that Mahatma Gandhi resigned from a sectarian pressure group, the *Hindi Sahitya Sammelan*, which has been exerting its best to make Government veer round to their point of view. Those of us who stand behind Gandhiji in wanting the common national language of *Hindustani* therefore rejoice at this *communique* which tries to find the balance even. No two experts seem to agree on this point, but I am glad that Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan, in moving this cut motion, has expressed his adherence to a common national language. That I think is the common ground between him and the Government of the day. It may be that ideas as to the exact content of that common national language may vary from one person to another, but the main thing which this discussion has brought out is that there is a large measure of common ground between the critics of the policy of this Government and its defenders—in that both of them have declared that they do want one common national language for this country.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Sir, I had no intention of speaking on this cut motion but the beautiful and poetic speech of my Honourable friend Pandit Govind Malaviya has irritated me to express myself on this question. I could not understand what my friend Mr. Balkrishna Sharma was talking about. He mentioned my language, my country and myself several times. I know he could not make himself harmful because he is a lovable person. Whatever he might do, you cannot have any ground to find fault with him. Of course, he is Hindustani, but he is a very nice gentleman and we would like to sit by

★ P. L. him. The pathos in the speech of my Honourable friend Pandit Govind Malaviya made me weep. He gave us the picture of the helpless millions, of his own lotus and *Shri Charan*. I do not know what he means by all that. But one thing which I found objectionable in his speech was that he said that India was the land of Hindus. My Honourable friend Mr. Masani also took objection to that statement. I know that he would like to talk like that now that he is becoming free, but I would like to assure him that India belongs to Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and every other community that inhabits this country. We, the Pathans, have given our

[Khan Abdul Ghani Khan]

blood, our time and our youngmen for this country just as any other Pandits have done in India. But you cannot say that India belongs to the Hindus India belongs to all the people from Khyber to Lumbutoo. We, Indians, have a very unfortunate habit—I do not know where it has come from—that we always like to mix up our history and our power with our hoary past of 3,000 years. Even a simple and a practical thing like the language of a country has not escaped this description. After all, a language is an ordinary tool for expressing our ideas and there is no point in mixing it up with ancient things and old traditions. My Honourable friend Mr. Mohammad Yamin Khan said that we must find out a language which can be called the language of the common man in India and which every Indian will be able to understand. In this House you have a very select audience, people whose intelligence is above the average and yet you find that most of them speak neither highly Persianised Urdu with Arabic words in it nor can they understand Hindi with a lot of Sanskrit in it. Sir, listening to the speeches on both sides, I have discovered many things. But one thing which is very obvious is that most people on both sides, whom my Honourable friend Mr. Masani called Pandits, are under the impression that the language of India should be either a symbol of the hoary past or of the Mughal Empire. The first and the only duty of a language is to explain the ideas of one man to another and no more. Looking at the point from both sides, it is obvious that a compromise is badly indicated. The language of the common man of this country—not of the learned Pandit or the scholarly Maulana—should be the language of India, which is known as Hindustani. The language of India should be the language of a common man and when that common man grows up intellectually, his language will also grow with him. The fear of Mr. Balkrishna Sharma is very difficult to understand. What does the common man care about this? When he is big enough and when he grows up individually, then he will himself be able to find out the proper words for his thoughts. Man has never failed yet to name a thing as long as he knows it. It is no use forcing Arabic down the throat of Indians nor is it of any use forcing Sanskritised Hindi down their throats. Let the Pandits keep their lotus flowers and *Shri Charana* and let the Maulanas keep all their classical Persian and similes. That is all I wanted to say. We must save the Indian from both extremes and the discussion today has shown one thing very clearly. My friends on this side are as much prejudiced against Urdu as my friends on the other side against Hindi. There is no difference between the two.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

Pandit Shri Krishna Dutt Paliwal (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 11th March, 1947, English translation given below.—*Ed. of D.*)

Sir, my object in taking part in this discussion is to support Hindustani. The speeches that have preceded my speech are all strong arguments in favour of Hindustani. Let us take them one by one. My friend, Sardar Ali Khan spoke in pure Urdu and as an answer to that my friend Pandit Balkrishna Sharma spoke in pure Hindi. The languages, used by both prove that neither Urdu nor Hindi can become the *lingua franca* of India. The supporters of both sides spoke in English. They spoke neither in Hindi, nor in Urdu, nor even in Hindustani. My friend Mr. Nauman supported Urdu in an English speech and my friend Pandit Govind Malaviya supported Hindi by speaking in English. None of them spoke in Hindustani. This is the strongest argument that India needs Hindustani. My speech which has been referred to by the Deputy President was neither in Hindi nor in Urdu. It was in Hindustani and that was why he could understand it. The Chairman of the Reception

Committee spoke in Hindi and some person spoke in Persian-mixed Urdu. None of the two is the language of India. It is an admitted fact as said by Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan that there should be only one language in India. It is plain that English cannot be that language. It has been forcibly thrust upon us by our rulers. How many of the India's masses know English? What is the percentage of English knowing people? How can we make it the *lingua Franca* for India. For the *lingua franca* of India we shall have to choose one from the languages prevalent in India. Nawab Siddiq Ali Khan is the strongest proof that Hindi cannot be the *lingua franca* of India and Pandit Balkrishan Sharma is the strongest argument that Urdu cannot be the *lingua franca* of India. If we call our *lingua franca* Hindi, it is objected to by one side and if we name it Urdu the other side takes exception to it. Under these circumstances none of them can be made the common language. But we have to make one common language for India. That is why I say that the greatest gift of Mahatma Gandhi to stop the dispute between Urdu and Hindi is that he has tried to give currency to Hindustani. That is why I say that the decision given by the Home and Broadcasting Member Sardar Patel to promote Hindustani by means of the Radio is the right step that he has taken and this House must support him heartily. No fourth language can find usage in our country. There are many difficulties in the way. One of them is that in this House there are Indian members who understand English but do not understand Urdu or Hindi and they are against learning Hindustani. As my friend Siddiq Ali Sahib said that we are given too much to speak English. We speak English but we refuse to speak Urdu or Hindi, this is a common phenomena and English has the way on the languages of this House. So far as I am concerned I have been delivering speeches in Hindustani for the last 20 years. I am the editor of *Sankh* a daily in Hindustani. I write all my articles in Hindustani. In 1926-27 I read a book "Youth Movement in China". In one of its chapters it was described how people in China brought about a linguistic and literary revolution. In a vast country like China manifold dialects are spoken. They publish not only their daily and weekly newspapers in these dialects but monthly magazines also. Sir, to convey our messages to the masses we have to form such a simple language as will be understood by the people. My friends Mr. Govind Malaviya and Pandit Balkrishan Sharma have said something about culture. Does culture belong only to educated people? We will have to bring civilization to the masses in their own language. You speak of culture! How did Bhagwan Buddha who was mentioned by Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan convey His ideals to the people? He gave His message to the people in their own language and you know how His ideals spread. Similarly, you will see that Swami Tulsi Das did the same. His *Ramayana* is more famous than Bal Mukis' *Ramayana*. The latter is not held in such importance as the former. Similarly, Gurm Nanakji gave expression to his ideals not in Sanskrit, Persian or any other language but in the language of the people and so he succeeded in spreading them. Today also as Pandit Balkrishana Sharma said and there was a discussion between him and Abdul Ghani Sahib that we have to educate the masses; can we educate them by means of Sanskrit? Mr. Deputy President has rightly said that the language in which Pandit Balkrishana Sharma has spoken can never be understood by the labourers of Cawnpore. Cultivators and farmers in villages who form 75 to 80 per cent of India's population cannot understand such speeches. We will have to make a mixed language betwixt Hindi and Urdu which may be called Hindustani. There can be no other language. The decision in favour of Hindustani is therefore absolutely right and this House must lend it its full support to it. There is, however, one thing of which I must apprise you. In this connection two difficulties will have to be surmounted. The first is the selection of words. If Hindi words are more the people of Urdu will complain

[Pandit Shri Krishna Dutta Paliwal]

and if Urdu words are more the supporters of Hindi will complain. This difficulty will not be easily solved. My friends Messrs Nauman and Siddiq Ali Khan have complained that Radio Programmes contain less Urdu words. I know. I have also a book with me. There are people who have made calculations that in the last eight months more than 90 per cent. of Urdu words were in use and Hindi were less than 10 per cent. The supporters of Urdu will continue saying that Radio Programmes contain 90% of Hindi words and the supporters of Hindi will go on saying that Radio Programmes have 90% of Urdu words. This struggle between Urdu and Hindi will never end. Yet, notwithstanding this struggle we have to solve this problem and to try to make Hindustani the common language of India. To decide as to which words could remain will be left to the common people. Words which the public, and the villagers would understand and in speeches and news will be understood by the masses will constitute the Hindustani language. *Lingua franca* will be the language of the masses. Literary Hindi and literary Urdu will have no room in it. They abrogate each other. So none of them can be the national language of India. In spite of these efforts the contest between Hindi and Urdu will continue. Feelings are strong on both sides and the present atmosphere is such as to aid it to continue. The supporters of Urdu complain that Urdu is being killed, while the supporters of Hindi say that Hindi is being slaughtered. How can we escape this murder, this slaughter? The remedy has been offered by Sardar Patel. It is true remedy. Hindustani must continue. I will not go into the percentage you have fixed for it, but I will say this much that unless you give right separate places to Urdu and Hindi the difficulty will remain and the supporters of both Hindi and Urdu will blame you. You have seen that in the Advisory Committee that you set up Anjuman-i-Urdu wanted to have a separate news bulletin in Urdu. Hindi Sahitya Sammelan put in a similar demand. Both are agreed that Hindi and Urdu should both be used by the Radio. Let it be so. But Hindustani must remain. There should be no reduction in it—nay it must be improved. Hindi and Urdu remain side by side with it so that their complaints may be removed. In this way Hindustani will find ease in going forward. Where there is no opposition both will help you. There will be some difficulty in promoting Hindustani. We know and it has been represented many times to the Government that programmes should be issued in both languages. It is not very difficult. You are doing it already. You broadcast from Bombay in Marathi, Gujarati and Hindustani. Similarly, you broadcast from Madras in many languages. You can do the same here. Therefore, with due deference I request Sardar Patel to recognize Urdu and Hindi as two separate languages and as he does in the case of Marathi, Bengali, Gujarati etc., they may be given proper places in the programmes according to population. Hindustani must be promoted as a national language and not at the cost of Urdu or Hindi or any Provincial language. This will make matters more easy for you.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, this controversy has gone on for quite a long time and I have not been able to understand why this quarrel or battle of languages has been brought into the realm of Broadcasting. I can understand this patriotic feeling of sections of a community for their mother tongue. It is so in many parts of the world and we in India are not the only people who speak several dialects or different languages. But why it should be made so prominent in the sphere of the radio has beaten me. I may say with due respect to many Honourable Members that they are a little inconsiderate. They forget for the time being that there are parts of this great country like Madras and Bombay where this quarrel of Hindi and Urdu does not exist. As the Honourable Home Member will tell you, our languages are Gujarati and Marathi and if in my province you have to speak to the common man you will have to use those languages. This controversy leaves us cold.

The same is the case with Madras. Not to speak of the common man, I venture to suggest that some of our highly literary members from Madras could not follow this debate; I confess I did not. Sir, the radio is meant to be a method of communicating to the masses some knowledge and information and they have to adopt methods that will reach the people; why then go on talking about Hindi and Urdu? There is no doubt that as years pass we shall have to find a common language for India, we have not found it yet but it is something we have to aim at and attain. But while we are in the present position let us realise that there are millions and millions of people in this country who do not understand either Hindi or Urdu; and, as I said, if the speeches made here today were made in my province or in Madras not one word would have been understood by millions of people. I agree with Mr Masani when he said that your speech, Mr Deputy President, was intelligible to us ignorant people coming from Bombay. I do not know whether you spoke Hindi or Urdu but I understood you, and from that I concluded that you spoke neither Hindi nor Urdu. If you had spoken either of these I would not perhaps have understood you. If therefore the radio adopts a policy of using a language which is understandable to the largest number they will be on the right track and if the present or the future Government can get a common language for every part of India so much the better. When we get that single common language we shall ask the Home Member to use it on the radio. But until we have got it it is no use pretending to talk about national honour. Let the radio use a language which is understood by the masses. Let this Hindi-Urdu controversy be carried out, side, to the universities and to learned bodies, but leave the radio alone. The radio is not the sphere to carry on scientific arguments as to what language is the best, what language originally belonged to the country and what we should adopt. Let that be discussed in the proper sphere. All we can say is that the Home Member should see that a language is used on the radio which is understood by the common people, that Marathi and Gujarati should prevail in any part of the country, and the languages of the south should prevail in Madras. About the north I am not in a position to express any opinion. But let it be the language which you spoke, Mr Deputy President, which can be understood. Let us who come from Madras and Bombay and Bengal have the advantage of listening to speeches in this House in a language which we can understand. Let us enjoy the words of wisdom and philosophy which fall from the lips of Honourable Members, and let us hope that this is the last debate we will have in this House about the radio and the language to be used by it.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I congratulate the Honourable Member of this motion on his taking the debate to a high level and avoiding the introduction of any acrimony or bitterness into this question, which is a question that can easily be taken to the realm of bitter controversy. I congratulate also those who followed him, who took the cue from him and kept the discussion on a high level. And that indicates that there is a sense of realism of coming freedom.

Now, Sir, in the first place I want to disabuse the minds of Honourable Members if there is any feeling that I have introduced something new in the policy that has been enunciated in the Government press communiqué. Far from it, I have followed or enunciated a policy which has been inherited by us, and that policy was initiated with the introduction of broadcasting in this country. Sir, you have seen that the controversy is restricted to the realm of the literary class of people who want to mould this policy according to their taste and liking. But the policy of the All-India Radio has to suit the common listener. The Broadcasting station is a public utility concern. We have to cater to the taste and look to the viewpoint of the common listener who does not sit in a drawing room or in a library, but who has got a cheap radio or who is likely

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

to get cheap radio in the near future, cheaper in any case than at present, and who wants to follow what is going on in this country and also outside. Therefore, Sir, the policy of the All-India Radio is to encourage a language which is understood by the common people and to a large extent that language is the language which you, Sir, used in this House and which was followed up by Mr. Pailwal. That is the policy which we propose to follow or to encourage, and therefore the two groups of people who were parties to the controversy have cancelled the arguments of each other and practically adopted or accepted the policy which has been enunciated by the Government. I wish to say one thing and that is I do not wish to quarrel with the name, but I want to say that the name that has been given to the language policy which the All-India Radio has adopted is not my innovation, is not of today or yesterday, but is an old one, and for that I will draw your attention to the words of the Linguistic Survey of India.

"Hindustani is primarily the language of the Upper Gangetic Plain and is also the *lingua franca* of India capable of being written in both Persian and Devnagri characters." The language which is widely intelligible in Northern India is neither Urdu nor Hindi as we know it, but a simple language which is commonly spoken and understood.

I have travelled from one end of the country to another and spoken more or less in a language which you, Sir, used in this House. I have found no difficulty in being understood by the simplest and most ignorant peasant in any part of the country, except to some extent in Southern India. But they are making up for the deficit and they have already succeeded to some extent. We have not much to do with the literary flourishes of Urdu or Hindi so far as the policy of the broadcasting station is concerned. Occasionally we may provide field for them and they may come and use the broadcasting station and give a treat to some literary people, but primarily this organisation is to be used for the common mass of people. Therefore we must at some stage lay down a clear cut policy. The policy was there. I have enunciated nothing new, but up to now the execution of the policy was left to the sweet will of the individual Station Directors. They had no clear cut policy to follow except one thing that Hindustani is the common language of the radio, that was the principle accepted from the beginning, but there was no proper policy so far as to the words to be used and the proportion in which Hindi and Urdu programmes were to be broadcast. The controversy went on for a number of years. When I took over charge of this Department I found that this was an old controversy. First this controversy took place in 1940 in the time of Sir Andrew Clow. It was then gone into by the Standing Advisory Committee. It was then recognised by the Department that the criticism of All-India Radio Hindustani policy really came from those who wished to have news-bulletins in two separate languages, namely Hindi and Urdu, but there was hardly any occasion on that ground to disturb the continuance of all news-bulletins, announcements, etc. in Hindustani. After this Sir Sved Sultan Ahmed convened a conference of the representatives of the Anjuman Taraqqi-e-Urdu (Dr. Abdul Haq, Dr. Abdul Sattar Siddique and Pt. Brijmohan Kaifi) and of the All India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan (consisting of Pandit Sampurnanand, Sri Mauli Chandra Sharma and Swami Anand) and by a special invitation the Honourable Syed Hoosain Imam, Member of the Council of State, was also called. This Committee came unanimously to the decision that there should not be separate Urdu and Hindi broadcasts of news, news commentaries and announcements. The language used should be of the simplest variety, which is understood by the vast majority of the listeners in Hindustani-speaking areas. Even after that the controversy persisted and the next stage was reached when Sir Akbar Hydari in January 1946 convened a Committee consisting of the Honourable

Rai Bahadur Shri Narain Mahtha, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Dr. Zakir Husain and Dr. Tara Chand. This Committee again came unanimously to the conclusion that the use of Hindustani as the common language for news bulletins should not be given up without a further attempt at arriving at a generally acceptable vocabulary. After this a Standing Advisory Committee was appointed by Sir Akbar Hydari, consisting of representatives of the All-India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Anjuman Taraqqi-e-Urdu and the Hindustani Prachar Sabha. Even this Committee came to the unanimous conclusion that the attempt to broadcast the news programmes in Hindustani should be persisted in. They even arrived at principles which should guide them in the selection of vocabulary, but it was only on details about the words that there was no agreement. The Committee sat for a number of days, but did not come to any unanimous conclusions on this part of their work. Therefore the work was left incomplete. The All India Radio has done a very good job of preparing a lexicon. But there has been raised some controversy so far as the words are concerned. Language is a difficult and delicate problem. But what problem in India is easy? Have you seen any? I have not. Therefore we have to solve it and we must solve it in the spirit which we have introduced in the debate today and I think it would not be difficult to solve problems if we adopt that attitude in other spheres also.

So, Sir, you will see, there has been considerable unanimity in the past so far as the policy is concerned. Therefore what the Government have done today is to fix a certain proportion and in doing that we have not done it haphazardly. We have adopted a scientific basis. We have taken the percentage of magazine circulations of Urdu and Hindi in various parts of the country. I would not like to weary the House with the details of the circulation of Hindi and Urdu magazines in the provinces concerned but I would only give a rough percentage for the various provinces.

Province	Hindi	Urdu
Delhi	47	53
U. P.	87	13
Punjab	7	93
Peshawar . . . . .	..	100
Bihar	91	9
Bengal	78	22
C. P.	93	7
Sind . . . . .	..	100

These are the percentages of the magazines in circulation in the various provinces. The total for All-India is 57 Hindi and 43 Urdu. You will see from this that the Government have taken into consideration the importance of the language, the place from which the language has originated or to which it owes its importance, and other factors. We have then drawn out a reasonable mean about which there cannot be much complaint. If we have erred, we have erred on the side of giving a little more weightage to Urdu. We have introduced parity in certain parts, particularly in Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Dacca, because I thought that parity was a word which would disprove any criticism and

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would also show that a certain amount of weightage is given wherever necessary.

I hope, Sir, the Honourable Members who take interest in this affair will see that even outside controversies are carried on on the same level. After all Government is not infallible; it can make mistakes which can be rectified, if they are pointed out with facts and figures and in a proper spirit. I have seen criticism made outside in a very bad spirit. I do not say that any of us here have anything to do with it but if we can, it would be advisable to carry on controversies if necessary outside the House in the same spirit in which this debate has been carried on in this House. And if there is any correction to be made and any reasonable objection is raised to this policy Government will certainly be too ready to consider it. As I said, the broadcasting stations are mainly intended for the general public and therefore let not the literary critics drag the radio into a controversy in a narrow view. That is all I have to say and I hope the Honourable Member who has moved the motion will withdraw it.

مسٹر صدیق علی خان: جناب صدر! وزیر نشر و اطلاعات نے درخواست کی ہے کہ میں اپنی تجویز واپس لے لوں اس لئے آپ سے عرض ہے کہ مجھے تجویز واپس لےنے کی اجازت دی جائے۔

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: Sir, Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting has asked me to withdraw my cut motion. I therefore request you to allow me to do so.

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

DEMAND No. 55—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

Inadequate Supply and mismanaged Distribution of Yarn amongst Handloom Weavers and Fishermen.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Naurang (East Punjab, Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy President: I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

As the House will recollect, last year during the course of the Budget Session I moved a Resolution in this Honourable House on the subject of releasing at least one third of the yarn produced by the textile mills for consumption by the handloom weavers. That Resolution led to a full dress debate and eventually the House passed it. But the net result of passing that Resolution has so far been (a Resolution of course would go no further than recommending to the Governor General in Council the course indicated in the Resolution) that the Resolution has remained practically a dead letter and the department of Industries and Supplies has paid very little attention indeed to the needs of the handloom industry. In fact by moving that Resolution in this House and by being instrumental in getting it passed in the House I became the target of a good deal of correspondence from various directions in the course of the one year that has since elapsed. I have been receiving innumerable communications from various parts of India from people who are engaged in the handloom industry complaining that they are not getting a sufficient supply of yarn and some people actually going to the extent of saying that their industry is being starved and they cannot get even enough to carry on their work for a fraction of the needs of their trade. The object of my present motion is to call attention pointedly to this subject once more. I think I need not repeat the arguments which I put before the House on the last occasion when I moved the Resolution.

It is well known that the people who depend on this handloom weaving industry are more than a crore in number in this country and the fact that this industry is being practically starved means that such a large number of people are being deprived of the means of their livelihood. If the needs of

such a large section of the community in this country are not attended to, I cannot understand what else we in this House are sitting here for.

You will see, Sir, that there was a fact-finding committee appointed by Government. That committee came to the conclusion after carrying on very elaborate investigations that for the years 1944 and 1945, 1,622 million lbs. of yarn was produced by the textile mills in India. Out of this 1,162 million lbs. was utilised by the mills themselves and 710 million lbs. was distributed not to handlooms alone but to powerlooms, and the hosiery industry. In spite of the increasing needs of the handloom industry in this country 6.8 million lbs. was exported in 1944 and 5.9 million lbs. was exported in 1945 to countries outside India.

Now, Sir, if the yarn produced by our mills is not enough to meet the needs of this country, there can be no sense, no justification and no excuse for exporting any part of it outside India. The first claim to a share in the amount of yarn that can be spared for consumption in this country is that of the cottage industries and the handloom industry. There appears to be no reason why their claim should be ignored and they should be allowed to starve.

As on the last occasion, Sir, on the present occasion as well, my contention is that it is not a matter which requires very elaborate arguments or a very long array of facts and figures. I have simply to point out that looking at the fact that this House recommended unanimously that at least one-third of the quantity of yarn produced by the textile mills must go to the handloom industry, there is very good reason for calling upon Government to give us good and adequate reasons why the Resolution of this House passed on the last occasion has been ignored and why so many complaints come repeatedly from all quarters of handloom workers complaining that they are being starved. I do not think, Sir, it is necessary for me to prolong my speech especially because there is so little time now at our disposal and the day is drawing to a close. I do not wish to detain the House longer. Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President: Cut motion moved.

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural). Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the cut motion before us which has been tabled with a view to invite the attention of Government to some of the gross inequalities in the distribution of yarn. To be brief I shall limit myself only to conditions prevailing in my constituency, what is known as the Karnatak districts. Those districts are known for the number of looms as also for the quality of cloth produced on those looms. As it happened, Sir, accidentally, I received this morning a communication from a place which is known as Gajendragard in Dharwar district which is known for its excellent and good looms. The facts, as they have been placed before me, point out to one type of inequality so far as the distribution of yarn is concerned. I have had occasions to receive complaints about the maldistribution of yarn, and one of the complaints was that where in a centre they produce very fine cloth they distribute the 20s and where the looms could not produce very fine cloth they send in the 60s, with the result that both types had either to be returned as useless or sent down into the black market. That was one type of irregularity that was practised.

There is also, Sir, another type of—I could not call it irregularity—but certainly an inequality. Taking the figures for some districts of the Bombay province, we find for instance that the district of Ahmedabad, which has only 5,451 handlooms, has got an allotment of 464 bales of yarn, whereas Bijapur with about twenty-four thousand and odd of looms, almost about five times that

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar]

of Ahmedabad, gets a quote of only 542 bales of yarn. Then, again, Sir, Nasik district which has got twelve thousand looms gets only 694 bales of yarn. I will not repeat these figures nor tease the House with any details of this kind, but I have only to respectfully invite the attention of the Government to this gross inequity which is being practised. There should be a thorough analysis of the requirements of each particular area, and the yarn that is available should be distributed evenly and in accordance with the requirements of a particular area. There has been much injustice in the past towards the handlooms but now a time has come when the handlooms have shown their vitality. During a very abnormal period when people might have found great difficulties in getting cloth, the handlooms have stood very well by us. I am sure that it would be one of the foremost concerns of the present Government to see to it that the handloom industry is given its fair share of prosperity, and for the time being one of the principal means of doing it would be to ensure an adequate quantity of yarn to the handlooms. That is one aspect of the matter to which I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Supplies.

There is another aspect which I might with advantage refer to and it is this. When any allotment of additional spindles is made for a particular area, not much consideration is shown . . .

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member can continue his speech tomorrow.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: I will not take more than a minute or two. I will finish my speech now.

What I want to point out is this. A backward province like the Karnataka which holds a large number of these looms and grows cotton in addition has been consistently refused permission to start a new mill. I should only request the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Supplies Department to persuade his department to show more imagination, because of imagination he himself has a lot. I should request him to persuade his department to show greater imagination and greater sense of utility and make the allotment of spindles for such areas where the handlooms are requiring yarn to a very large extent. Sir, I have finished.

The Assembly then adjourned Till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 12th March, 1947.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 12th March, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART, ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

854. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Education please state.

(a) whether Government of India have recently sanctioned the establishment of a National Museum of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology;

(b) if so, whether the selection of a Director of Museum has been made;

(c) if the answer to part (b) be in the negative, when it is likely to be made;

(d) whether Government will give an assurance to the House that a duly qualified Indian alone will be appointed to such a post; and

(e) the estimated cost of the scheme?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (اے) گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے یہ تجویز اصولی طور پر منظور

کر لی ہے کہ آر کے یوالجی اور انتھراپالوجی کا ایک نیشنل میوزیم قائم کیا جاوے۔

(بی) ڈائریکٹر کا چناؤ ابھی نہیں کیا گیا ہے۔

(سی) میوزیم کی عمارت بنانے کا کام تھیک طور پر آگے بڑھایا جا سکا ہو غالباً

سنہ ۱۹۴۸ء میں ڈائریکٹر کا سلیکشن کیا جاوے گا۔

(دی) میوزیم کے ڈائریکٹر کی جگہ ایسی پالیسی کے مطابق بھری جائیگی جو حال

میں گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا تھیرا چکی ہے۔ یعنی خاص خاص حالتوں کے سوا عام طور

پر اب کسی سول پوسٹ پر کسی غیر ہندوستانی کو نہیں رکھا جائیگا۔

(ای) اسکیم کے لئے ٹوٹل کیپٹل کا جو تخمینہ کیا گیا ہے وہ تقریباً ایک کروڑ ہے۔

اسکیم تقریباً پانچ برس میں پوری ہوگی اور سالانہ خرچ کا اندازہ تقریباً ۸ لاکھ رکھا

گیا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The proposal for the establishment of a National Museum of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology has been accepted in principle by the Government of India.

(b) The selection of a Director has not yet been made.

(c) Most probably in 1948-49 if satisfactory progress is made in regard to the building of the scheme.

(d) The post of the Director of the Museum will be filled in conformity with the policy recently laid down by the Government of India that no non-Indians should be appointed to any civil post except only in very exceptional circumstances.

(e) The estimated total capital cost of the scheme, including building, equipment, etc., will be about rupees one crore. It will take about five years to complete the scheme and the ultimate recurring cost when the scheme is in full operation will be about Rs. 8.5 lakhs per year.

سہتھہ گوند داس : کیا جناب یہ بتلائیں گے کہ جو ڈائریکٹرز مقرر کئے جائیں گے انکی نسبت کیا کوئی ایڈورٹائزمنٹ کیا جائیگا یا ایلیکشن آنے کے بعد ان میں سے لوگوں کو چن لیا جائیگا -

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member please state whether the post of Director will be advertised or selection will be made from applicants who have already applied?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ابھی اس بارے میں تفصیلات طے نہیں کی گئی ہیں تاہم

انہی ہدایتوں کے مطابق عمل کیا جائیگا جو سلکشن کے لئے عام قاعدہ ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Details in this connection have not yet been settled but such directions will be acted upon as are usual in making selections

سہتھہ گوند داس : کیا سرکار اس بات کا خیال رکھے گی کہ جو عمارت میوزیم کے لئے بنائی جانے والی ہے اس میں صرف ہندوستانی آرٹ کی چیزیں ہونا چاہئے بدیشی آرٹ کی اس میں کوئی چیز نہیں ہونا چاہئے -

Seth Govind Das: Will the Government bear in mind that the building to be built for the Museum will have articles of Indian Art only and shall have no articles of foreign art?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ چیز کھلی ہوئی ہے کہ نیشنل میوزیم کی عمارت کے لئے لازمی طور پر ایسا ہی ہوگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: This is obvious The building for a National Museum should necessarily be like that

مسٹر سسکا سکھر سانہال : کیا آرٹ مشن باہر بھیجنے کے لئے سرکار نے خیال کیا ہے -

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Do Government propose sending an Art Mission to foreign countries?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس پر غور کیا جائیگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It will be considered

خان عبدالغنی خان : جو آرٹ میوزیم بننے والا ہے اسکے لئے کیا سرکار کوشش

کریگی کہ جو ہندوستانی خزانے باہر کے ملکوں میں ہیں وہ واپس لائے -

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Will the Government try to recover for the proposed Art Museum the Art Treasures of India now in foreign countries?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس معاملہ پر تیار شدت فور کر رہا ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Department is considering it.

SELECTION OF STUDENTS FOR HIGHER STUDIES ABROAD

855. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Member for Education please state:

(a) the number of students selected for higher studies abroad who have already started their studies in foreign universities;

(b) the position of those who were selected but could not be allowed to proceed to the universities of their choice due to lack of sea passage and accommodation in those universities; and

(c) whether Government propose to adopt any alternative scheme to employ these students usefully within the country?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (۱) ۳۲۷ سنگر کے اور ۳۱۲ صوبوں کے تہرائے ہوئے

اور ۱۷۰ صوبوں کے بھیجے ہوئے باہر کی یونیورسٹیوں اور انسٹی ٹیوشنوں میں تعلیم پڑھ رہے ہیں یا بہت جلد تعلیم شروع کرنے والے ہیں -

(بی) ۹۳ سنگر کے اور ۱۵۶ صوبوں کے تہرائے ہوئے اور ۱۱۰ صوبوں کے بھیجے ہوئے طالب علموں کو اہلی تعلیم شروع کرنے کا موقع نہیں مل سکا - ان میں سے کچھ تو اسلئے رکے ہوئے ہیں کہ جہاز میں جگہ ملنے کا انتظام ہو جائے - کچھ اسلئے کہ باہر کے انسٹی ٹیوشنوں میں داخلہ کا انتظام ہو جائے - باہر کے مناسب انسٹی ٹیوشنوں میں جگہ ملنے کا معاملہ برابر کٹھن دھالے اور کٹھن چلا جاتا ہے - جو طالب علم اس انتظار میں رکے ہوئے ہیں انکے لئے یہ انتظام ہو گیا ہے کہ اکتوبر ۱۹۴۷ء کے سیشن سے تعلیم شروع کریں اور اسلئے انہیں اگست سے پہلے بھیجنا ضروری نہیں ہے -

(سی) آنریبل ممبر کو سوال نمبر ۱۲ حصہ (سی) کے جواب پر توجہ دلائی جاتی ہے جو ۸ نومبر سنہ ۱۹۴۶ء کو اس ہاؤس میں دیا گیا تھا - کسی دوسری سکیم پر سوچ وچار کرنے کی ضرورت نہیں ہے -

آنریبل ممبر کو اس سلسلہ میں یہ بات بھی سامنے رکھنی چاہئے کہ تیار شدہ ایک کمیٹی اس غرض سے بنایا جا رہا ہے کہ اس پورے معاملہ پر نئے سرے سے غور کیا جاوے - یہ کمیٹی معاملہ کے اس پہلو پر بھی غور کریگی کہ باہر کی یونیورسٹیوں میں داخلہ کی رکاوٹیں دیکھتے ہوئے آگے کو گورنمنٹ کیا پالیسی اختیار کرے - اس کمیٹی سے درخواست کی گئی ہے کہ وہ اہلی رپورٹ ۱۵ جولائی سے پہلے تیار کر کے بھیج دے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) 427 Central and 312 Provincial Government sponsored scholars and 170 Provincial Deputationists are either studying or about to start their courses in foreign Universities and institutions.

(b) 93 Central and 156 Provincial Government sponsored scholars and 110 Deputationists are either awaiting passage or admission. It continues to be difficult to secure admission to suitable institutions abroad. So far as the passage position is concerned most students are awaiting the next available ship, while others have been admitted for the October, 1947 Session and it is not therefore proposed to send them before August.

(c) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply to part (c) of the starred question No. 12 by Shri Sri Prakasa on the 8th November 1946. No other scheme is necessary.

In this connection I should like the Honourable Member to keep in view the fact that the Department has appointed a committee to go into this whole question and to place before the Department its recommendations by the 15th July. This committee will also look into this aspect of the question as to what future policy we should adopt in view of the difficulties of securing passages and admissions.

سیٹھ گوند داس : جو ویدیارتھی آئندہ باہر بھیجے جائینگے وہ صرف امریکہ اور انگلینڈ

ہی نہیں بلکہ روس - اور دوسرے ملکوں میں بھی بھیجے جائیں اور وہاں جو خاص باتیں ہوں اسکا گورنمنٹ دھیان رکھے -

Seth Govind Das: In future, when scholars are sent abroad, they will not be sent to England and America only; but Russia and other countries also and the Government will take into consideration the specialities of those countries.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جو کمیٹی اسکے لئے مقرر کی گئی ہے اسکے ٹرمس آف

ریفرنس میں یہ بات ہے کہ آئندہ سال تعلیم کے لئے طلباء بھیجے جائینگے تو اس پر بھی خیال کیا جائیگا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: In the Terms of Reference of the Committee set up for the purpose it is laid down to send scholars abroad next year. At that time it will be taken into consideration.

ڈاکٹر ذیال الدین احمد : کیا میں یہ دریافت کر سکتا ہوں کہ کیا گورنمنٹ

کے پاس اس قسم کی رپورٹ آئی ہیں کہ جو طلباء تعلیم کے لئے باہر بھیجے گئے ہیں انہوں نے اپنی تعلیم میں کیا ترقی کی ہے - منجہ معلوم ہوا ہے بعض امتحان میں ہمدردستانی طلباء فیل ہو گئے ہیں -

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask if the Government receive reports of the progress in education of the scholars sent abroad? I have heard that they have been unsuccessful in certain examinations.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ نے اسکا پورا انتظام کیا ہے کہ ہر مہینہ انکی

تعلیم کی نگرانی کی رپورٹ آئے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government have made complete arrangements to receive monthly reports from the supervisor of their education.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (Supplementary question in Assamese).

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may translate his question in English.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: What is the use of granting new scholarships if all those who have been granted scholarships before have not been able to secure accommodation?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جیسا کہ میں ابھی کہ چکا ہوں کہ اس میں بہت

دقتیں پیش آ رہی ہیں - اسکے لئے ایک کمیٹی بھیجی گئی ہے وہ اس معاملہ میں نئے سرے سے غور کرے گی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: As I have already said, lots of difficulties are arising. A committee has been set up for the purpose. This committee will reconsider this matter.

مسٹر سسکا سکھر سنگھال : ہندوستان کے جو اسٹوڈنٹس باہر رہتے ہیں انکا انتظام کرنے کے لئے ہائی کمشنر کو فرمائش بھیجی گئی ہے یا نہیں۔ کہ انکا ہر طرح انتظام کریں۔

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Have instructions been sent to the High Commissioner to make all sorts of arrangements for scholars who have gone abroad?

آئرلینڈ مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ بہت مشکل ہے جیسا کہ آئرلینڈ ممبر نے کہا کہ تمام فرمائشیں پوری کی جائیں لیکن انکی دیکھ بھال ضرور کیجائی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It is very difficult to fulfil all their wishes as the Honourable Member desires, but they are certainly looked after.

مسٹر احمد ای - ایچ - جعفر : کیا میں آئرلینڈ ممبر صاحب سے یہ دریافت کر سکتا ہوں کہ اسٹوڈنٹس کو باہر بھیجنے کے لئے کسی خاص اسٹیمر کا بندوبست کیا جائیگا۔

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member if a special steamer will be arranged for the scholars to be sent abroad?

آئرلینڈ مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اسکا کوئی خاص انتظام نہیں ہے۔ بلکہ جو اسٹیمر مل سکتا ہے اس میں انتظام کی کوشش کیجائی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: There are no special arrangements for it. Efforts are made to make arrangements in the steamer which is available.

POSITION OF DOMICILED EUROPEANS IN THE INDIAN ARMY

856. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state what the position of Domiciled Europeans in the Indian Army of the future will be?

(b) Is it a fact that under an army order all Europeans, even though they are domiciled, are not to be permitted to enlist in the Indian Army?

(c) When did this order come into force?

(d) Does the order apply to Regular Indian Commissioned Officers who passed out from the Indian Military Academy, received Regular Commission before 1939 and have served in the Indian Army for a number of years and reached the rank of Captains and Majors?

(e) Are these officers to be retired or to be transferred to the British Army?

(f) What is the number of such officers who are to be asked to retire and are otherwise affected by the order?

(g) Does the order apply also to Anglo-Indians?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) British subjects of European descent domiciled in India are statutory Indians and are eligible for enrolment or commissioning into the Indian Army in the same way as other Indians.

(b) No, Sir. There is no Indian Army Order making all Europeans even though domiciled, ineligible for enrolment or commissioning into the Indian Army.

(c) to (f) Do not arise in view of the answer to part (b).

(g) The position is that as Anglo-Indians are statutory Indians they are eligible to enlist and be commissioned in the Indian Army in the same way as domiciled Europeans. .

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable the Defence Secretary say what is the position about the Auxiliary Forces in which, I understand, the Anglo-Indians were in a very large number?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: That question, Sir, does not arise out of this question.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: What are the purposes for which a difference is still maintained between a British unit, an Indian unit and an Anglo-Indian unit?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I submit, Sir, that also does not arise out of this question.

SHIPPING SPACE FOR VISITORS TO U. K. AND U. S. A.

857. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state the position of shipping space available for person desirous of visiting the United Kingdom and the United States of America?

(b) Has the position improved, if not, when is it likely to improve to the pre-war level in regard to comforts in travelling?

(c) Has the Controller of Civil Passages any control over berths available for civilians, if so, how many berths are under his control every month and to whom are these allotted?

(d) To whom are the berths not required by the Controller of Civil Passages allotted and by whom?

(e) Does he control berths on lines including the President Line to America, if so, what is the number?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Shipping is still controlled by His Majesty's Government who have undertaken to provide, if possible, a minimum of 1,500 berths a month for civilians from India to United Kingdom in transports. These are vessels still under requisition by His Majesty's Government. In addition, civilians secure about 250 passages a month in commercial vessels, which are not under requisition.

Shipping accommodation from India to the United States of America is not controlled and the Government of India have no information as to the passenger position.

(b) Pre-war standards of comfort cannot be expected until requisitioned vessels which were converted for the transport of troops during the war, have been reconverted to ordinary passenger use. This process of reconditioning vessels has begun but is likely to take some time before it is completed.

(c) The Home Department controls 200 berths each month for (i) civilians travelling on Government duty including persons entitled to repatriation on completion of contract with Government; and (ii) civilians sponsored by Government including persons proceeding overseas for tuition or training or on business which serves a direct national interest.

(d) Any berths not required by Government within the limit of 200 are surrendered to the Passage Pool from which persons without priorities are allotted passages in the order of application for them.

(e) No.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that the priorities already given to people in the months of April and May are still in force and it is not possible for others to obtain accommodation on the ships because priorities have already been given to people? What is the remedy for those who want to go now?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The only remedy is to wait.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: If the members of the legislature want to go abroad unofficially, can they get priority within the special control of sea passage?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Yes, they can if they are sponsored by Government.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: If an Honourable Member of this House wants priority, will he be given priority without any consideration?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Not without consideration. If they come under the conditions mentioned just now in answer to part (c), they will get it.

RAID BY BRITISH SOLDIERS ON ANGLO-INDIANS AT RAILWAY INSTITUTE, JHANSI

858. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that 200 armed British service personnel raided the Railway Institute at Jhansi, when the Anglo-Indians were celebrating Christmas and assaulted some Anglo-Indians and set fire to furniture and canopies in the ball room?

(b) If so, what are the causes for this raid?

(c) How many soldiers have been arrested and what action has been taken against them?

(d) How many have not been arrested and what steps are being taken to arrest them?

(e) What is the total amount of damage caused and who will bear the cost thereof?

(f) Do Government propose to hold a court of enquiry? If not, why not?

(g) What steps do Government propose to take to see that such incidents do not occur again?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (b) I lay a statement on the table of the House. (c) and (d) 12 B O Rs were placed under arrest immediately following the incident. After the Court of Enquiry, a summary of evidence was ordered to be taken and as a result eleven men of the Wiltshire Regiment and two men of the R.A.M.C. are in close arrest with a view to being tried by court-martial.

(e) The total cost of the damage has been estimated at Rs. 10,745. The question as to how it should be made good will receive the consideration of Government.

(f) A military Court of Inquiry has already been held.

(g) All B O Rs against whom sufficient evidence is available are being court-martialled. Disciplinary action is being taken against the Station Staff Officer, Jhansi, and other officers at fault. The Battalion is being moved into a British Infantry Brigade. An expression of the severe displeasure of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will be communicated to the Battalion.

Statement

The facts of the incident are as follows:—

The Railway Institute at Jhansi is normally out of bounds to B O Rs. On the 13th December 1946, the President of the Railway Institute wrote to the military authorities requesting that the Institute should be put in bounds for officers and troops on account of a boxing tournament which the Institute intended to hold. He did not, however, state the month and the Station Staff Officer presuming that the request referred to December published a Station Order to the effect that the Institute would be in bounds to British troops. The President of the Institute on receipt of this order again wrote to the Station Staff Officer apologising for his mistake and pointing out that the dates referred to January 1947 and not to December 1946. An amendment to the Station Order was published on 24th December 1946 cancelling the previous order, but this amendment was not issued in sufficient time to make it effective. As a result, on the evening of 24th December 1946, 4 B O Rs. of the Wiltshire Regiment arrived at the Institute under the misapprehension that they were allowed to attend the function taking place there. These men, on being refused permission, became truculent. The Court of Inquiry is of the opinion that their eventual admission was aided and abetted by persons unknown, who were present in the Institute and who had an intimate knowledge

of the various entrances thereto. Having entered the building the four BORs were stopped and questioned and one of them was manhandled. In the meantime other BORs had arrived at the entrance to the Institute and were also refused permission. Thereafter, there were incidents of actual scuffles between them and the Anglo-Indians.

On the evening of the 26th December 1946 a larger number of BORs than usual, both from the Wiltshire Regiment and from other units in Jhansi, attended the early performances at the local cinemas. Amongst these men were some BORs who had been involved in the incident on the 24th December 1946 and who appeared to have been either legitimately or illegitimately manhandled on that occasion. After the cinema some 60 or 70 BORs set out on foot to go to the Railway Institute. Some of these men, however, returned prior to reaching the vicinity of the Institute. On arrival at the Institute the men rushed in and started breaking up the furniture, etc., and it would appear that the Christmas decorations caught fire. The BORs realising the seriousness of the situation rapidly dispersed. In the meanwhile the incident having been reported, an armed patrol consisting of one NCO and 13 BORs had been despatched to the Institute. Their presence had a salutary effect on the Anglo-Indian element in the Institute some of whom had shown signs of violence. As a result of the incident, there were no casualties, either civil or military, admitted to hospital. No women were molested. The number of BORs involved in the incident was not more than 50 to 60 and none of them was armed.

The occasion of this rude behaviour on the part of British soldiers appears to be the mistake contained in the Station Order referred to above whereby the BORs were under a misapprehension that the Institute had been placed in bounds, but despite this were refused permission.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Defence Secretary make it clear to this House whether military personnel of this type whenever they commit offences, civil or criminal, like assault, battery, damage, insult and abduction, whether they are not triable by the ordinary civil or criminal courts of this country?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: They are triable by civil or criminal courts, as well as by court-martial.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In that case, may I know why in this case, the Government contented themselves with merely a court martial which will only look into disciplinary measures and which cannot possibly look into the damage done or the crime committed?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: My Honourable friend is under a misapprehension. A court martial is as good as a court of law. It tries a person accused of offences under the military law. As regards the extent of damage, etc., I pointed out that the Court of Enquiry had gone into the question and reported on the extent of damage done. The question as to how it is to be met is still under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I have asked for no statement in parts (a) and (b) of my question.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: It is a long statement which I lay on the table of the House. I would not like to waste the time of the House by reading it. In fact the same statement was made in the Council of State yesterday.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: How many of these soldiers were put up for identification?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The whole battalion was turned out for the identification parade.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is the Honourable Member aware that the persons who were assaulted feel that the British officials and the officers of the court of enquiry have tried to cover up the tracks of the miscreants?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: No, Sir, the suggestion is absolutely without any foundation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: How many women were among those assaulted?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: None, Sir.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Part (a) of Question No. 858 does not call for any statement. It only calls for an answer in the affirmative or negative in a categorical way. Is it in order, Sir, for the Government Member to put the House into a statement when a categorical answer would have sufficed? I think this is unfair to the House.

Mr. President: To my mind, there seems to be some misapprehension in raising this point of order. Questions in the House are not necessarily of the nature of cross examination of a witness, where a categorical reply is given, "yes", or "no". Honourable Members put questions for having information and if information is given at length, it should not be a ground for complaint.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member state whether the information that he has laid on the table in connection with part (a) is a substantial answer in the affirmative or negative?

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: In view of the fact that these offences were committed within the jurisdiction of the civil authorities by troops who deliberately broke 'bounds', will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of allowing the civil police to investigate into the facts of the case?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: An officer of the civil police was actually present throughout the proceedings of the Court of Enquiry.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Honourable Member make certain that the troops attached to this battalion are not smuggled out of this country or sent overseas in order to cover up their crime as a private complaint in the criminal court is contemplated?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I repudiate the suggestion that anybody was deliberately sent out of the country. Nobody is being "smuggled out" out of the country as the Honourable Member puts it with a view to shielding him from the punishment due to him.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that the British soldiers assaulted the inmates in the club, because some Anglo Indian ladies refused to dance with them when invited to do so?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I should like to read a portion of the Court's Report, as the House seems to desire some detailed information here and now.

"In the opinion of the Court the reasons for the incident on the 26th occurring are the incidents which occurred on the 24th, which are primarily due to four B.O.B's. of the Wiltshire Regiment who arrived at the Institute in a bright and merry mood thinking they were allowed to attend. On being refused entrance, they became truculent and decided to gate crash in which the Court believes they were aided and abetted by someone with intimate knowledge of the various entrances into the Institute. The mistaken impression that they were allowed to attend is partially due to a typing error in Station Orders which stated that the G. I. P. Institute was in bounds, although NOT repeated in Bn Orders, and which was NOT cancelled in sufficient time to make it effective. The blame for this, in the opinion of the Court, must be borne by Capt. C. N. Madiah, S.S.O., HQ, Jhansi Station, under whose signature the orders were issued.

The four B.O.B.'s having gained entrance, were at once stopped and questioned as to whether they held passes and promptly became abusive and aggressive. There is no doubt they brought up the question of colour, which in a community well known for its touchiness on this subject, is bound to lead to trouble and for which there is no excuse. One B.O.B. was particularly abusive to the Secretary of the local Anglo-Indian Association, which resulted in the B.O.B. being knocked out and the Secretary being accompanied back to his wife.

This incident had been seen and overheard by a number of Anglo-Indians and had, without doubt, roused the ire of some of the younger Anglo-Indians. Fuel was added to the flames by other military personnel of various units who had been refused entrance being rowdy and insulting outside the entrance and that two girls dancing together were insulted by presumably a British soldier, and this led to a group of 6 or 7 Anglo-Indians, some of whom were military, to take the law into their own hands, which resulted in a number of B.O.Bs. being manhandled. Two of which, at least, were unprovoked attacks. One particularly bad case of manhandling was viewed by a number of military personnel of various units all of whom vowed they would take their revenge."

Mr. Manu Subedar: Does the Honourable Member expect this House to believe that it was the Anglo-Indians who were aggressive and not the B.O.R.'s who were both drunk and offensive and took the law in their own hands in the first instance?

Mr. President: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I did not say anything of that kind, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government satisfied with the findings of this court which puts the aggression on the Anglo-Indians, whereas the aggression was entirely on the other side?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: It does not put the aggression on the Anglo-Indians.

Mr. President: That would still be a matter of opinion.

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: Is it a fact that after this incident was reported and before the identification parade took place some of the B.O.R.'s were transferred from that unit to another?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have no information to that effect.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Member aware of another and a more serious incident which occurred at Jhansi station a few days ago and reported in the press today in which a number of British soldiers are involved?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have no information, Sir.

RECRUITMENT TO I. C. S. AND I. P. S.

859. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement regarding the future recruitment to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police, particularly mentioning the arrangements agreed upon as a result of the talks on the subject between the Secretary of State and the Governor-General in Council?

(b) What steps will be taken to safeguard the interests of Muslims in future recruitment; and what will be the percentage of the Muslim quota?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply which I gave to Shri D. P. Karmarkar's starred question No. 197 on the 11th February 1947.

(b) In view of the reply to clause (a), the question does not arise.

FALL IN SILVER PRICE IN NEW YORK

860. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the news that the silver price in New York fell considerably because of the worldwide race to obtain United States dollars;

(b) how much silver has so far been sent from India to the United States of America for selling purposes; and

(c) what is the reaction on the silver position in India due to India's participation in this race?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) There has recently been a rise in the price of New York silver which stands at 84½ cents and the fall which took place about a month ago appears to have been a temporary phase due to various factors such as the supply and demand position and the desire to take advantage of the high price in New York and not necessarily due to a race to obtain U. S. dollars.

(b) There has been no export of silver from India for sale in the U. S. A.

(c) Does not arise.

Seth Govind Das: Why do these prices fall down and immediately afterwards shoot up? Is that not due to speculative markets and are Government thinking of at once stopping this speculation in the bullion market?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I do not know how that arises from the original question.

Seth Govind Das: In reply to part (a) the Honourable Member said that there was a fall in prices and they have again gone up. In view of this rise and fall occurring in the U. S. A. and in India I want to know whether speculation in the bullion market in India will be stopped at once.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is assuming that the rise and fall is due to speculation, and he puts his question on that basis.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: There may be some speculation also but I suppose the rise and fall is due to demand and supply.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Now that private licenses for the import of silver have been stopped may I know if Government will pick up loose silver which may be available in the world from time to time below certain prices, and whether they will bring it out here and keep the difference to themselves instead of allowing the difference to go into other pockets?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I should like to have notice of that question because it needs consideration before I can reply to it.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoolo Haroon: With reference to the reply to part (b), although the export of silver is stopped, is the Honourable Member aware that prices of silver have gone very high in Bombay? If so, what steps are Government taking to check that?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: If the Honourable Member will put down a question I shall be able to reply.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmed: Are Government thinking of abolishing this gambling house known as the bullion exchange, which is the root cause of non-stabilisation of prices in this country?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: As I mentioned in my budget speech, the matter is under examination.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoolo Haroon: Is there a possibility of releasing silver from Government stocks because it is not wanted for rupee currency, and allow prices to come down?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Perhaps my Honourable friend is not aware that the Government of India borrowed a very large amount of silver from the U. S. A. which we have to return within a certain limited period.

USE OF STERLING BALANCES FOR IMPORT OF MACHINERY FOR STATE OWNED INDUSTRY

861. ***Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state.

(a) if it is a fact that the Indian Capitalists are monopolising the available sterling balances for getting machinery for their existing and new industries;

(b) the percentage of sterling balance so far used for the purpose mentioned in part (a) above, after the end of the War; and

(c) if Government propose to consider the desirability of utilising the sterling balances for import of machinery for State owned industries?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to parts (b) and (d) of Seth Govind Dass' starred question No. 480 on the 13th November 1946.

(c) All imported machinery required for State owned industries must necessarily be paid for either from the sterling balances or from India's current earnings of foreign exchange.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the present position with regard to the outstanding balances to the credit of India?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The Honourable Member will find the exact position in my budget speech.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that a number of questions are asked about the sterling balances and their utilisation for absolute necessities in this country, may I know if the Honourable Member will appoint an *ad hoc* committee of this House to go into the details of imports from time to time and avoid the frittering away of the sterling balances?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The matter is engaging the attention of Government and I referred to this matter also in my budget speech. I said that this is a matter which Government are seriously considering, that there should be no frittering away of the sterling balances.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether under the Foreign Exchange Control Act which has been passed directions have been given to the Reserve Bank to get the fullest information from banks with regard to the sterling sold by them to individuals and the quantity and purposes for which such sterling will be used?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: With regard to the reply to part (b) does the Honourable Member wish to cancel all these licenses which were issued in 1944-45 for sterling balances and which have not yet been utilised by the parties?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I do not know how that arises out of this question.

POSTS OF JOINT OR DEPUTY OR ADDITIONAL SECRETARIES IN THE IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT

862. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the number of Joint or Deputy or Additional Secretaries' posts created in the year 1946-47 in the Imperial Secretariat;

(b) the names of the officers who have been posted to such new posts, their present pay including allowances and their pay just prior to their appointment in the present posts, and

(c) if the Provincial Governments were consulted before such officers were taken over from the Provinces?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the required information.

(c) Yes

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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<i>Particulars of Additional, Joint and Deputy Secretaries appointed to posts created in 1946-47 in the Imperial Secretariat.</i>				
Department	No. of posts created in the year 1946-47	Name of officer appointed to the post	Present pay including allowances (p. m.)	Pay just prior to appointment to present post (p.m.)
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1. Department of Commerce	1	(1) <i>Additional Secretaries—</i> Hon'ble Mr. Y. N. Suktiankar, C.I.E., I.C.S.	3,500 0 0	3,000 0 0
2. Department of Food	1	Mr. R. B. Sen	3,500 0 0	4,000 0 0
1. Legislative Department	1	(2) <i>Joint Secretaries—</i> Mr. K. V. K. Sundaram, I.C.S.	3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0
2. Department of Health	1	Mr. P. Madhava Manon, M.B.E., I.C.S.	3,000 0 0	1,900 0 0
			S. P.	400 0 0
				2,300 0 0
2. Department of Industries and Supplies.	2	(i) Mr. Ikrumullah, C.I.E., I.C.S. (ii) Mr. S. Elcottiahagan, O.B.E., I.C.S.	3,000 0 0 3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0 1,700 0 0
			W. A.	263 0 0
				1,963 0 0

Department	No. of posts created in the year 1946-47	Name of officer appointed to the post	Present pay including allowances (p. m.)	Pay just prior to appointment to present post (p.m.)
4. Finance Department	2	(i) Mr. H. A. C. Gill, I.C.S.	Rs. a. p. 3,000 0 0	Rs. a. p. 3,000 0 0
		(ii) Mr. R. L. Gupta, O.B.E., I.C.S.	3,000 0 0	3,000 0 0
5. Department of Food	1	Mr. J. M. Lobo Prabhu, I.C.S.	3,000 0 0	2,400 0 0
6. External Affairs Department	2	Mr. C. B. Duka, O.B.E.	3,000 0 0	
				Pay. In the time scale of I. P. S., as Deputy Secretary, External Affairs Department, Plus a special pay of Rs. 400 per mensem.
7. Finance Department	4	(i) Mr. K. C. Roy, M.B.E., I.C.S.	1,425 0 0 S. P. 400 0 0 1,825 0 0	1,425 0 0 250 0 0 150 0 0 1,825 0 0
		(ii) Mr. K. R. P. Aiyangar, M.B.E.	2,500 0 0	1,425 0 0 S. P. 400 0 0 W. A. 263 0 0 2,088 0 0

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8. Department of Labour	2	(iii) Mr. M. Hashim	1,560 0 0 S. P. 400 0 0 1,960 0 0	1,560 0 0 400 0 0 1,960 0 0
		(iv) Mr. A. Balakrishnan	1,620 0 0 S. P. 400 0 0 2,020 0 0	1,620 0 0 200 0 0 1,820 0 0
		(i) Mr. V. Narayanan (I.A.&A.S)	2,020 0 0 W. A. 243 0 0 2,263 0 0	1,960 0 0 263 0 0 2,223 0 0
		(ii) Mr. M. A. Latif, P.E.S	1,300 0 0 W. A. 263 0 0 1,563 0 0	1,300 0 0 263 0 0 1,563 0 0
9. External Affairs Department	5	(i) Mr. H. Dayal, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary (Personal) to Hon'ble Member for External Affairs Department.	Pay 1,200 0 0 per mensem (In the time scale of I. P. S.) S. P. 400 0 0 per mensem.	Pay in the time scale of I. P. S. as Under Secretary, External Affairs Department, Plus special pay at Rs. 300 per mensem.
		(ii) Capt. M. G. Dixon	Pay 1,400 0 0 per mensem (in the time scale of I. P. S.) S. P. 400 0 0 per mensem.	Pay in the time scale of I. P. S. as Joint Deputy Commissioner, Marden.

Department	No. of posts created in the year 1946-47	Name of officer appointed to the post	Present pay including allowances (p. m.)	Pay just prior to appointment to present post (p. m.)
			Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
		(ii) Mr. H. Trevelyan, O.B.E.	3,000 0 0	Pay. In the time scale of I. P. S., as 1st Secretary, Indian Agency General Washington, Plus local allowance at £ 750 per annum rent allowance at £ 500 per annum Supplementary allowance at £ 30 per mansam.
		(3) Deputy Secretaries—		
	3	(i) Mr. S. Neelakantam	750 0 0	750 0 0
Department of Works, Mines and Power.		S. P.	500 0 0	300 0 0
		W. A.	219 0 0	184 0 0
			1,409 0 0	1,234 0 0
		(ii) Mr. H. C. Gupta, I.C.S.	1,425 0 0	1,425 0 0
		S. P.	400 0 0	
		W. A.	243 0 0	249 0 0
			2,088 0 0	1,974 0 0
		(iii) Post vacant.		

1. Department of Agriculture . . .	2	....	....	....	....
2. Commonwealth Relations Department . . .	2	(i) K. B. S. Iqbal Hussain . . .	1,350 0 0 S. P. 400 0 0 W. A. 1263 0 0	1,375 0 0 150 0 0 249 0 0	....
		(ii) R. B. N. C. Sen . . .	2,012 0 0 1,250 0 0 Pension 708 5 4 W. A. 263 0 0	1,674 0 0 2,050 0 0	....
3. Department of Commerce . . .	2	....	£ 2,221 5 4	2,050 0 0	....
4. Department of Transport . . .	1	M. R. B. Elwin, I.C.S. . . .	2,200 0 0 S. O. P. £ 20 0 0	2,100 0 0	£20 0 0
		(iii) Mr. H. C. Beaumont . . .	Pay Rs. 1,300 0 0 per mensem (in the time scale of I. P. S.) Special pay 400 0 0 Rs. per mensem.	Pay. In the time scale of I. P. S., as Under Secretary, Rajputana Residency.	

Department	No. of posts created in the year 1946-47	Name of officer appointed to the post	Present pay including allowances (p.m.)	Pay just prior to appointment to present post (p.m.)
		(3) <i>Deputy Secretaries—contd.</i>	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
		(iv) Capt. B. K. Kapur	Pay Rs. 1,500 0 0 per mensem (in the time scale of I. P. S.) Special pay 400 0 0 per mensem	Pay. In the time scale of I. P. S., as Settlement Officer, Baluchistan, plus a special pay of Rs. 150 per mensem.
		(v) Mr. A. P. Low, O.B.E.	Pay Rs. 1,900 0 0 per mensem (in the time scale of I. P. S.) Special pay Rs. 400 0 0 per mensem.	Pay. In the time scale of I. P. S., as Financial Secretary, North-West Frontier Province, plus a special pay of Rs. 150 per mensem as Financial Secretary, and a special pay of Rs. 200 per mensem as Financial Adviser, North-West Frontier Province Government.

BROADCASTS OF BENGALI PROGRAMMES FROM THE ALL-INDIA RADIO,
DELHI.

363. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All-India Radio, Delhi, broadcasts programmes in Hindi, Urdu, English, Tamil, Gujarati in addition to the broadcasts of the daily news;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no Bengali programme is broadcast from the All-India Radio, Delhi;

(c) whether Government are aware of the existence of a large number of Bengalees in Delhi and the Punjab; and

(d) whether Government propose to start a Bengali Section in the All-India Radio, Delhi?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes, but Tamil and Gujarati broadcasts (other than news) are directed to listeners outside India and are disseminated from shortwave transmitters

(b) Yes.

(c) The population of Bengalis runs into a few thousands.

(d) No

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know what are the languages in which Delhi station broadcasts for foreign service?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I shall require notice

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will the Honourable Member kindly tell us if there is really any obstacle in giving Bengali broadcasts from the All-India Radio Station at Delhi?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The population is very small

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to the Honourable Member's answer is not he aware that appreciation of Bengali music at least is not confined to Bengalees?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not know, Sir, whether Bengalee music is broadcast or not, but it must be

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I wanted to be assured

Mr. Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: May I enquire from the Honourable Member whether it is a fact that the All India Radio Stations at Calcutta, Bombay and Dacca are broadcasting Bengalee and Gujarati music, and as there is no Radio Station in the Province of Sindh why Sindhi broadcasts are not provided for in the programme of Delhi Station, and whether the Honourable Member would consider the advisability of allotting some time for broadcast in this language from the All-India Radio Station at Delhi?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not possess the information required

Mr. President: Music seems to have been confounded with languages

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Has the Honourable Member consulted the authorities employed in the All-India Radio Station at Delhi as to what is the volume of demand for Bengalee broadcasts?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Honourable Member wants to know the volume of demand for Bengalee music. The staff has supplied the information that the population is very small

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Apart from the question of population, may I know whether a specific question was put to the Delhi Station authorities as to what was the amount of demand that was made by the public for having Bengalee broadcasts?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As there is no demand, it cannot be measured

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is the Honourable Member aware that a large number of non-Bengalee people are fond of Bengalee music?

Mr. President: That has been answered, I believe.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: With reference to part (a) of the question, may I ask whether Government have finished consideration of the question of allotting some time to Canarese music? I have raised this question already on the floor of the House. If the question is not yet considered may I know if the Honourable Member will consider the advisability of considering this question about Bangalee being given more time after the Canarese question is settled?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Canarese will get due priority.

WAR LEAVE TO MEMBERS OF RAILWAY WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN THE INDIAN ENGINEERS.

864. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

(a) whether war leave, together with full pay, was given to those who volunteered from certain Government Departments for service in the military forces,

(b) whether this benefit was denied to members of the Railway who volunteered for military service in the Indian Engineers, and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give this benefit to them also?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sir. Annual war leave on full pay was given to Gazetted Officers of the P & T Department granted emergency commissions and to officers of the A I R O. who held permanent civil appointments. Their terms of service provided for this.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Under the rules the leave of permanent Railway employees who volunteered for military service is governed by the civil rules applicable to them before transfer to the Army except that in cases of sickness or disability directly attributable to military service leave is governed by military rules. Government do not propose to change these rules.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is it not a fact that all members of the Posts and Telegraphs Department who volunteered for military service were given these concessions with regard to war leave and pay?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have replied that the annual war leave on full pay was given to gazetted officers of the P & T. Department granted emergency commissions and to officers of the A I R O. who held permanent civil appointments.

Mr. President: He wants to know, irrespective of gazetted officers

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I have not got that information with me.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: If it is a fact that war leave was given to all members of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, which is a Government Department, who volunteered for military service, will Government consider extending exactly the same concession to members of the Railway Department, another Department of the same Government, who volunteered for military service?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have replied that Government do not propose to change these rules. The special concession to the personnel of the Posts and Telegraphs Department owed its origin to the fact that they were governed by special rules before the war.

GRATUITIES TO PENSIONERS EMPLOYED IN A MILITARY CAPACITY

865. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether pensioners who were employed in a military capacity were denied the right to gratuities granted to all other personnel, and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of giving the same right to pensioners also?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (b) The Honourable Member presumably refers to Indian military pensioners re-employed during the last war. If by 'gratuities' is meant 'war gratuity', this has been given to re-employed pensioners as well. If the Honourable Member has in mind 'service gratuity', the question of granting this to re-employed pensioners does not arise, as these personnel were allowed to draw pension in addition to pay, a concession not ordinarily admissible. No discrimination has, therefore, been made against re-employed pensioners.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is it not a fact that the pensions were calculated on the total emoluments so that no pensioner could draw anything more than another person doing a similar job of work?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I want notice of that question.

DATA REGARDING PERSONS FROM PROVINCES EMPLOYED IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

866. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are collecting data regarding persons from various Provinces employed in the various Departments and their subordinate and attached offices?

(b) If so, do Government propose to state the number of such employees from each Province, community-wise, with the appointment held by each?

(c) Do Government propose to take any steps to fix a proportionate quota for each Province, in all classes of services under them, according to the population and the revenue derived?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Information is being collected with regard to the number of persons belonging to different Provinces employed in the Secretariat and Attached Offices situated at Headquarters and not in respect of all Central Government employees.

(b) This detailed information is not being collected.

(c) No.

DEPUTATION TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF PERSONS PERMANENTLY EMPLOYED IN THE PROVINCES.

867. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that persons in the permanent employ of the Provincial Governments have been coming to the Central Government on deputation from 1939 onwards?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above is in the affirmative, do Government propose to recognise the services of such employees by absorbing them permanently on their staff?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) Persons on deputation from Provincial Governments must return to their Province at the end of their period of deputation, unless the Provincial Government concerned agree to extend the period of deputation. Permanent appointments to Central Services, Class I and Class II and to Ministerial Posts in the Secretariat and Attached Offices have to be made through the Federal Public Service Commission. It is open to the persons on deputation from Provincial Governments to apply for permanent appointment in the Central Government.

with the consent of their Provincial Government. If they do apply, their cases will be considered along with those of other applicants.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what happens with reference to I C S men who are brought from time to time from the Provinces and what is the procedure for their being absorbed or retained here permanently in case the Central Government wants to retain them for any particular Department?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Before making them permanent here, the Provincial Government concerned is consulted because they are drawn from their cadre.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Central Government pursuing the policy of automatically sending them away after three or four years of deputation here?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is the general policy of Government except in special cases.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is not the Government considering the desirability of retaining such of them and utilizing their experience here as have served for more than three years, inasmuch as in provinces the subjects that they are required to deal with are absolutely different from those at the Centre?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The benefit of the Central Government experience is to be given to the provinces also.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: So far as the Finance Department at least is concerned, is it not necessary that there should be continuity inasmuch as the Central finances are absolutely different

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member is arguing. Next question.

COMMUNAL PROPORTION OF REGIMENTS IN INDIAN ARMY

868. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the leading article in the *Dawn* dated the 13th February 1947 under the heading "Demuslimising the Forces";

(b) whether Government propose to place on the table of the House a copy of the first interim recommendations submitted by the Armed Forces Nationalization Committee;

(c) the number of Regiments of the Indian Army which are wholly composed of (1) Hindus (2) Gurkhas (3) Sikhs and (4) Muslims;

(d) the communal proportion fixed for the future for the Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and the actual communal ratio in this corps at present;

(e) the communal proportion fixed for the future for (1) the R.I.N., (2) R.I.A.F. and (3) the Army, the present communal proportion of all ranks in these three Services and the proportion of officers community-wise in these three Defence Services;

(f) the communal composition of the Directorate of Personnel and the various Services Selection Boards;

(g) the number of Indian Brigadiers and the number of Muslims among them;

(h) the communal proportion of the officers and the staff selected for the Pre-cadet Training School for civilians and the Pre-Selection School for Indian Emergency Commissioned officers and the National War Academy to be started at Poona; and

(i) the steps that Government propose to take to ensure that the Muslims have their due share in all the ranks and services of the three branches of the Defence Force of India?

Mr. G. S. Bhatia: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. These recommendations are now under consideration by Government. It is not considered desirable to publish them until a final decision is reached.

(c) to (h). I lay five statements on the table of the House.

(i) Equal opportunity exists for all. No community is denied its due share, but officer appointments are made on the basis of merit, and merit alone.

Statements

The number of Regiments wholly composed of Hindus, Gurkhas, Sikhs or Muslims (Regiment in this context has been assumed to mean all Units of Lt.-Cols. command).

Hindus	Gurkhas	Sikhs	Muslims	Total
54	37	12	19	122

Class composition of I.E.M.E.

Community	Existing composition (1-12-1946)	Proposed Post-war
	Per cent	Per cent
Hindus	51.03	70.88
Muslims	31.12	18.54
Sikhs	5.83	1.00
Others	12.02	9.58

Royal Indian Navy.—No communal proportion is fixed for the R. I. N. Recruitment to that Service is made on an all-India and non-communal basis.

As regards the existing composition of this Service, attention is invited to the statement laid on the table on the 24th February 1947 in answer to starred question No. 530.

Indian Army.—No communal proportion is fixed. The officers of the Indian Army, as in the case of the other two services is on a non-communal basis. The present composition of the Indian Army is shown below :—

Community	Officers	Others
	Per cent	Per cent
Hindus incl. Gurkhas	47.84	55.71
Muslims	23.65	31.76
Sikhs	16.26	7.65
Others	12.25	4.88

Royal Indian Air Force.—No communal composition is fixed for the R.I.A.F. in respect of either officers or other ranks. The demand for pilots and technical personnel for the

R.I.A.F. has always exceeded the supply. The present communal proportion in the service is given below :—

Community	Officers and Airmen	Officers only
	Per cent	Per cent
Hindus	57	46
Muslims	18.3	18
Sikhs	5.1	11
Others	19.6	25

	Directorate (officers)	Selection Boards (officers)	Pre-selection officers training school
Hindus	9	27	2
Muslims	6	11	1
Sikhs	1	1	2
Others	1	6	.
Total	17	45	5

ishment has yet been sanctioned for the Pre-cadet Training scheme
National War Academy, no establishment has been sanctioned for the
at have not yet passed orders on the report of the National War

There at present ten Indian Brigadiers of whom one is a Muslim

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member please state what is the religion of the Gurkhas mentioned under item 2. and if they are Hindus, whether the statement that the Honourable Member gave under the heading Hindus included them also, or not?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I would ask for notice of that question. I am not sure whether the figure against Hindus includes Gurkhas.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member not tell without further notice as to what is the religion of the Gurkhas?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member says that he notice.

COMMUNAL PROPORTION OF SERVICES IN THE POST WAR DEFENCE FORCE OF INDIA

869. ***Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether any communal proportion has been fixed for the various Services in the post War Defence Force of India and, if so, what are the details?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: No, Sir.

JURISDICTION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, DELHI.

†870. ***Lala Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of recognised schools which fall under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of Education, Delhi;

(b) the number of other Officers employed by Government under him;

(c) the salaries drawn by each of these officers;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of Education, Delhi Province, has also been given the task of inspection of schools in Ajmer-Merwara and Central India; if so, the time spent by him in visiting these areas during the year 1946, the number of schools visited by him, and the expenditure incurred on that account by Government by way of travelling and other allowances, and

(e) whether there is a separate Deputy Superintendent of Education and other Inspecting Officers for Ajmer-Merwara and for Central India, if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of the Superintendent of Education of Delhi Province devoting his whole attention to Delhi Province and the inspecting officers of Ajmer-Merwara and of Central India doing the inspection work in their respective territories directly under the supervision of their own Government?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The Honourable Member apparently refers to the Superintendent of Education, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India. The information asked for in respect of all the three areas, is as follows:

(a) Delhi Province—347, Ajmer-Merwara—391, Central India—28

(b) and (c) Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India—Deputy Superintendent of Education—Pay Rs. 600 in the scale of 600—35—950—50—1,000

Delhi —1 Assistant Superintendent of Education Pay Rs. 550 in the scale of 300—25—700

2 Assistant Superintendent of Female Education—Pay Rs. 300 in the scale of 200—20—400—25—500

3. District Inspector of Schools—Pay Rs. 400 in the scale of 250—25—700.

In addition there are six non-gazetted inspecting and supervisory officers

Ajmer-Merwara —1 District Inspector of Schools—Pay Rs. 650 in the scale of 200—20—500—525—25—600—625—650

2 Inspectress of Girls Schools—Pay Rs. 350 in the scale of 200—20—400.

In addition there are three non-gazetted Inspecting Officers

Central India —Nil

There is one non-gazetted Assistant Inspector

(d) The Superintendent of Education, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India, is responsible for Education in all the three areas, and he should spend approximately six, four and two months in a year in Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India respectively. Actually the Superintendent of Education did not inspect or visit any school in Ajmer in 1945-46. Pending the appointment of a permanent Superintendent of Education, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India, through the agency of the Federal Public Service Commission, the Government of India made interim arrangements for the inspection of schools in the areas concerned, by local officers. The Assistant Superintendent of Education, Delhi who was carrying on the duties of Superintendent of Education, Delhi and Central India and then officiating as Superintendent, of Education, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India during 1945-46, spent 36 days in Central India and visited 23 schools. The expenditure incurred in connection with travelling allowance amounted to Rs. 2,022-8-0.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(e) There is no separate post of Deputy Superintendent of Education, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India. The Honourable Member apparently refers to the post of Deputy Superintendent of Education, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India. There are separate Inspecting Officers in Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India. The Government have already given the matter their most careful consideration and the present arrangements have been found economical as well as satisfactory. With the progress of educational development as administrative responsibilities grow, the situation will no doubt be reviewed.

DEFALCATION OF FINES IN THE COURT OF RESIDENT MAGISTRATE, NEW DELHI.

†871. ***Lala Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in October, 1946, defalcation of fines amounting to about Rs. 15,000 was detected in the Court of the Resident Magistrate, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government auditors were appointed to find out the exact amount defalcated and to report as to how the defalcation happened; if so, what the findings of the auditors were and which officials were at fault;

(c) the action taken against the officials concerned and the steps taken for the recovery of Government money from them;

(d) whether Government are aware that the clerk concerned is still absconding and that the Magistrate concerned who was suspended by Government was called back by the Punjab Government and the orders of his suspension were cancelled in spite of the protest of the Delhi Administrative Authorities; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to take any further action in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The findings of the Auditors are still awaited. The question of allocating responsibility will arise after the proceedings both criminal and departmental have been completed.

(c) A criminal case has been started against the clerk and departmental proceedings have been taken against the Resident Magistrate. The question of recovery will arise after the result of these proceedings is known and responsibility for the defalcation can be determined.

(d) The clerk concerned is absconding. The Resident Magistrate was suspended and charges were framed against him but further proceedings could not be taken owing to his illness. At the instance of the Punjab Government the Chief Commissioner cancelled the order of suspension.

(e) In view of the answer to clause (d), this question does not arise.

RADIO SET AT CONNAUGHT PLACE PARK.

†872. ***Lala Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state why the Radio set at Connaught Place Park which was managed under the orders of the War Publicity Bureau, Rajpur Road, Delhi City, has ceased to work for the last few months?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The radio set in question was donated by a private firm, and was being looked in turn by the War Publicity Bureau and the Field Publicity Organisation. It is understood that it went out

RETURN OF CONFISCATED PROPERTY OF PIR PAGARO OF SIND.

†873. ***Lala Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether the press report that the Government of India have decided to return the confiscated property of the late Pir Pagaro of Sind is correct; if so, the estimated value of the property to be so returned and the considerations which weighed with Government to come to this decision?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The Government of India have decided to hand over to the Government of Sind a sum of Rupees five lakhs out of the money realised from the sale of the confiscated movable property of the late Pir Pagaro and the immovable property belonging to him which was forfeited to the Government of India.

The Government of Sind will then assume responsibility for the education and maintenance of the Pir's two sons and other dependants.

It will be seen that the press report was not accurate and it has not been decided to hand over the property to the heirs.

APPLICATION OF BOMBAY CHILDREN ACT TO DELHI PROVINCE.

†874. ***Lala Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state

(a) the date from which the Bombay Children Act was applied to the Province of Delhi, and whether the entire Act was enforced or any portions were left out,

(b) whether a separate Juvenile Court and a probation service as required under the provisions of the said Act has been established at Delhi, and if so from what date;

(c) the total number of cases of children tried under the various provisions of the Act during the years 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945 and 1946,

(d) whether there is any provision under the Act or the Rules made by the Chief Commissioner making it obligatory for the Juvenile Court to call for a social investigation report in each case, and if so, in how many cases out of the total number of cases tried, such reports were received and considered before passing judgment,

(e) the percentage of cases of children released on probation as provided in the Act,

(f) the institutions that are recognised as fit and Certified Schools under the Act in Delhi,

(g) whether Government have any scheme to start a Certified School as provided in the Act, and if so, whether it was sponsored by the Planning Department of the Chief Commissioner, or by some private individual or Association; and

(h) the annual grant-in-aid given by the Government of India to the Delhi Children's Aid Society and whether Government propose to increase grant or to take over the work of the Society?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Necessary information has been called for from the Local Administration. It will be laid on the table of the House when received.

ABSORPTION INTO ARMY OF MEN OF THE 1ST INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY

875. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state.

(a) whether Government are aware that after the break up of the 1st Indian National Army, General Mohan Singh, Col N. S. Gill and their companions were kept prisoners by the Japanese till the end of War when the Allies rescued them;

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) whether Government are aware that they did not join the 2nd Indian National Army and suffered great privations in which a number of them lost their lives as a result of their refusal to do so;

(c) the reasons for treating the men of the 1st Indian National Army on a par with those who took active part in the 2nd Indian National Army movement;

(d) whether it is a fact that Col. N. S. Gill of the 1st Indian National Army made a statement to the South East Asia Command at Singapore immediately after his release from the Japanese imprisonment explaining his conduct in respect of the part he played in the 1st Indian National Army movement;

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to lay a copy of that statement on the table of the House; and

(f) whether Government propose to reconsider the case of the 1st Indian National Army men with a view to re-absorbing them in the Army or according them better treatment?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir, this is true of many of them

(c) Because, Sir, neither of them were regarded as reliable soldiers

(d) Yes, Sir, and he made a contradictory statement to the Japanese when imprisoned by them.

(e) No, Sir

(f) No, Sir

COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION OF FOLK SONGS OF DIFFERENT PARTS OF COUNTRY

876. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state:

(a) what steps, if any, are being taken by Government for collecting folk songs of different parts of the country and for popularising them; and

(b) whether Government have considered the question of providing scholarships or stipends in order to facilitate such collection and publication?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (اے) اِس بارے میں گورنمنٹ نے ابھی تک کوئی

خاص قدم نہیں اُٹھایا ہے۔ گورنمنٹ ے ویسوا بھارتی شانی نکیہن میں جو تہجڑز تربلنگ انستیتیوت کھولا ہے اُسے ایک اسکیم بنائی ہے اُس اسکیم کے مطابق کوشش کھجاریکی نہ ملک کے الگ الگ حصوں میں جو فوک سونگز پائے جاتے ہیں انہیں اکٹھا کیا جارے تاکہ وہ ایجوکیشنل انستیتیوتوں کے کام آئیں۔

(بی) گورنمنٹ اِس معاملہ میں بوری طرح سوچ بچار کریگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) So far no steps have been taken by Government direct in the matter. The Teachers Training Institute set up at Visva-Bharati Santiniketan, by the Central Government, have proposed a scheme to collect folk songs of the different parts of the country with a view to utilising them in educational institutions

(b) The Government will give the issue their careful consideration.

مسٹر سسکا سیکھر سنیال : کیا گورنمنٹ یہ بتا سکی کہ ویسوا بھارتی میں جو

کام شروع ہوا ہے اسکے کام کرنے کے لئے گورنمنٹ کچھ گرانٹ دیگی۔

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Government say whether any grant will be given for the work started in Visva-Bharati?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ ایسپر سوچ وچار کریگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It is being considered by the Government.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the work already done by the All-India Radio which broadcasts folk songs of different provinces, will Government see that duplicate moneys are not spent for the same purpose by two different departments of the Government?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ ایسپر غور کریگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government will consider it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that a certain gentleman has been collecting these folk songs and writing a number of articles as well as books on the subject?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ کے علم میں اس طرح کی کوئی چیز

نہیں آئی ہے۔ لیکن اگر یہ ہے تو گورنمنٹ ایسپر غور کریگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government has no knowledge of such a thing. If there is, Government will consider it

بلندت شری کرشن دت پالوال : گورنمنٹ کو کیا یہ معلوم ہے کہ کون سا محکمہ

کام کر رہا ہے۔

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Do the Government know which Department is doing the work?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ تحقیقات کریگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government will investigate.

COLLECTION OF MASTERPIECES OF INDIAN PAINTINGS

877. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government for collecting masterpieces of Indian painting;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government for acquainting students in Indian schools with high class Indian paintings;

(c) whether for the above purposes, Government are collecting information from countries abroad as to the methods adopted and applied by them, and

(d) to what extent and how Government are taking the assistance of Indian artists and art critics in this matter?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (اے) گورنمنٹ نے ایک اسکیم اصولی طور پر پانچ

برس کی اس غرض سے منظور کر لی ہے کہ سنٹرل نیشنل میوزیم قائم کیا جاوے۔ اس میوزیم میں دوسرے دیارمسلکوں کے ساتھ ایک دیارمسلک آرٹ کا ہولہ اس میں تصویر بنانے - پتھر سے مورتیاں تراشلے کی ہندوستانی کاریگری کے تمام نمونے رکھے جائیں گے۔

قلم سے لکھی ہوئی ایسی پرانی کتابیں جہیں پرانے نقش و نگار کے تھلک پر چسکیا گیا تھا اس میں جگہ پائیں گی۔ یہ تمام نمونے اس طریقہ پر جوڑے جائیں گے کہ پرانے زمانے

سے لیکر جو زیادہ سے زیادہ دور تک پیچھے گئے ہیں اور حال کے زمانے تک کے نمونے دنیا کے سامنے آئیں۔ البتہ آج کل کے زمانے کا ہندوستانی آرٹ اُن سے نہیں ملایا جائیگا کیونکہ وہ میوزیم کے چہار دیواری کے اندر کی چیز نہیں ہے۔ اسیم میں چیزوں کے خریدنے کے لئے ایک فلڈ رکھا گیا ہے کیونکہ بہت سی چیزیں ایسی ہونگی جن کے لئے خاص طور پر خرچ کا انتظام ضروری ہوگا۔

(ہی) یہ سجویز بھی ہے کہ لندن کے وکٹوریا اور البرٹ کے میوزیم کے سرکیولرٹنگ۔ فپارٹمنٹ کے نمونے پر یہاں بھی ایک ایسا ہی ڈپارٹمنٹ کھولا جائے تاکہ ملک کے دوسرے شہروں اور انسانی ٹیوشنوں میں خاص خاص چلی ہوئی چیزیں چکر لگا سکیں۔

(سی) یہ بھی سجویز کیا گیا ہے کہ دورے کا ایک نقشہ بناکر دو اسر باہر بھیجے جائیں گے۔ وہ گریٹ برٹن اور امریکہ کے بڑے بڑے میوزیموں کی بلات سجاوٹ اور بلڈریسٹ کے سام ڈھنگ دیکھیں گے۔ سچیہنگے اور اس کام میں پوری مہارت حاصل کر کے واپس آئیں گے۔

(قی) میوزیم کی گونگ باقی میں ہندوستانی آرٹسٹ اور آرٹ کریٹک کافی تعداد میں رکھے جائیں گے تاکہ وہ کمیٹی آف مینجمنٹ کو جنرل پالیسی کے بارے میں ہدایات کرتے رہیں۔ اور میوزیم اور پبلک انٹرسٹ کے درمیان ایک ملائے والی کڑی کا کام دیں۔ جہاں تک آج کل کے ہندوستانی آرٹ کا معنی ہے سنٹرل اڈوائزی بورڈ آف ایجوکیشن نے سفارش کی ہے کہ ایک انڈین ایکڈمی آف آرٹس اینڈ آرکیٹیکچر قائم کیا جاوے تاکہ وہ ملک کی کلچرل سرگرمیوں کو ایک دوسرے سے ملا سکیں اور اس کی سفارش پر گورنمنٹ سوچ بچار کرنی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The Government have approved, in principle, a five year scheme for the establishment of a Central National Museum of Art, Archaeology, and Anthropology. The proposed Museum will comprise among others a Department of Art, which will be entrusted with the representation of Indian pictorial and sculptural art (including illuminated manuscripts) from the earliest periods until recent times, including examples of the higher craftsmanship of artistic value, but excluding modern Indian Art or the art of countries remote from India or unrelated to the traditional Indian culture. The scheme also provides for the establishment of a purchase fund for normal acquisition of collections for various Departments of the Museum, and for exceptional collections.

(b) It is also proposed to establish a Circulating Department on the model of the Circulating Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, for sending out classified loan collections to towns and educational institutions throughout India.

(c) It is also proposed to send one or two Officers of the Museum, when they are recruited for training and necessary practical experience abroad on a carefully planned foreign tour, which would include a detailed examination of the construction, administration, methods of display etc of certain of the best museums of Great Britain and America.

(d) Indian Artists and Art Critics will be adequately represented on the proposed Governing Body of the Museum in order to guide the "Committee of Management" on matters of general policy and as a link between the Museum and official and public interest.

As for the development *inter alia* of the modern India Art the Central Advisory Board of Education have recommended the setting up of an "Indian Academy of Arts and Architecture" in order to foster and co-ordinate the development of the cultural activities of the country, as a whole. The proposal is under consideration. It will be for the proposed Academy, when set up, to devise the best ways and means to fulfil the objects for which it is to be formed.

شری سری پرکاش: کیا میں گورنمنٹ سے یہ درخواست کر سکتا ہوں کہ اس عجائب گھر میں تخت طاؤس اور کوہ نور ہیرا بھی واپس لایا جائے؟

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I ask the Government if the Peacock Throne and Koh-i-Noor diamond will also be brought back for this Museum?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: اگر آنریبل ممبر صاحب بتا سکیں گے کہ یہ چیزیں کہاں ہیں پھر کوشش کی جاوے گی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: If the Honourable Member can tell us where to find these things efforts will be made to recover them.

شری سری پرکاش: کیا آنریبل ممبر صاحب کے یہ علم ہیں کہ تخت طاؤس ایران میں ہے اور کوہ نور ہیرا لندن میں۔

Shri Sri Prakasa: Does not the Honourable Member know that Peacock Throne is in Iran and Koh-i-Noor diamond is in London?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: تخت طاؤس کے لئے جہاں تک معلوم ہوا ہے کہ ایران میں نہیں ہے لیکن دوسری چیز کے لئے کوشش کی جاوے گی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: So far as inquiries go Peacock Throne is not in Iran. Efforts will be made for the other thing.

مسٹر سسکا سکھر سنیال: جو آرٹ ایکزیبیشن ہوگا اس میں ہندوستانی چیزیں بھیجی جائیں گی یا نہیں۔

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will Indian exhibits be sent to the proposed Art Exhibition or not?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: انگریزیشن جسوقت ہوگا اس وقت اس کے لئے انتظام کیا جائے گا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Arrangements will be made when the Exhibition is held.

مسٹر سسکا سکھر سنیال: جو جو چیزیں بھیجی ہوئی اُسکی نقل رکھی جائے گی یا نہیں؟

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will models be kept of the exhibits which will be sent?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: اسکے لئے انتظام کر لیا گیا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Arrangements have been made for it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered the question of giving some relief to England in the matter of the sterling balances by taking over all the antiquities and pieces of art, manuscripts and books which have a close association with India, for the obvious reason that India is their home and in any case, is it not fair to bring them over here?

آٹریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اِس پر وزارتِ مہنت سوچ بچار کر رہا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It is under the consideration of the Department.

شری سری پرکاش : اِس بات پر غور کرتے ہوئے کہ ابھی حال ہی میں مسز سوامی ناتھن کے ایک دوست نے تختِ طاووس کو ایران میں دیکھا ہے۔ کچھ آٹریبل ممبر صاحب اِسکی تلاش کرنے کی کوشش کریں۔

Shri Sri Prakasa: Considering the fact that one of Mrs. Swaminadhan's friends recently saw the Peacock Throne in Iran, will the Honourable Member try to find it out?

آٹریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : کوشش کی جائیگی

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Efforts will be made.

INTRODUCTION OF INDIAN DANCING IN SCHOOLS.

878. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that are being taken by Government for encouraging and promoting oriental dancing and for introducing a course of Indian dancing in schools; and

(b) whether in this matter Government are seeking or taking the advice and assistance of artists and art critics?

آٹریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (اے) اور (بی) سنٹرل ایڈوائزری بورڈ آف ایجوکیشن نے سفارش کی ہے کہ ایک انڈین ایکڈمی آف میوزک - قواما اینڈ ڈانسنگ قائم کیا جاوے۔ اِس تجویز پر سوچ بچار کیا جا رہا ہے۔ جو بات اُنہائی گئی ہے وہ بلاشبہ خاص کلچرل انٹریسٹ کی ہے جو یہی تعلیم کی زئی اسکیم آئے بڑھیکے تو پوری طرح اِس بات پر دھیان دیا جائیگا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). The Central Advisory Board of Education have recommended the setting up of an "Indian Academy of Music, Drama and Dancing." The proposal is under examination.

The issues raised are of great cultural interest and will receive most careful consideration as the scheme of educational development is implemented.

مسٹر سسٹنک سیکھر سنیال : کیا سرکار انڈین ڈانسنگ ڈیمانسٹریشن دکھانے کے

لئے کوئی انتظام کریگی۔

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Government arrange to hold an Indian dancing demonstration?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ اس پر موقوف ہے کہ جب اس طرح کی چیز سامنے آئیگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: It depends upon the time when the question comes before us.

شری سری پرکاش : اس بات کو دیکھتے ہوئے کہ جھانسی میں ناچ کی وجہ سے بہت سے انگریزی سپاہیوں نے ایلنگو اینڈین عورتوں پر حملہ کیا تھا کیا آنریبل ممبر صاحب اس بات کا خیال رکھیں گے کہ جب انکی تجویز کے مطابق ناچ کا نمونہ پیش ہو تو اس طرح حملہ نہ ہونے پارے۔

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that in Jhansi during a dance many British soldiers assaulted Anglo-Indian girls will the Honourable member bear in mind that at the time of the proposed dancing demonstration no such assault will occur.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : منجھہ امید ہے کہ اس وقت ملک کی حالت ایسی ہو جائیگی کہ کوئی حملہ کی ضرورت نہ ہوگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I hope by that time the country will be in a state that will do away with the possibility of assaults

سیٹھ گووند داس : کیا سرکار کو معلوم ہے کہ دنیا میں کہاں سب سے پہلے ناچ کس معاملہ میں رکس ہوا ہے تو سرکار اسکے لئے کوشش کرے کہ جہاں پرانے ناچ کے معاملہ میں جتنے مہارت دنیا میں موجود ہوں انکو ملنا کہ یہاں رکھا جائے۔

Seth Govind Das: Is the Government aware in what connection and in what part of the world dancing was first introduced in the world? Will the Government try to call here all the expert classical dancers from all over the world?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : قدرتی طور پر گورنمنٹ ان لوگوں کو یہاں لائیکے جو اس چیز کے اکسپرت ہیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Naturally Government will call all the experts of this art.

ڈاکٹر ضیاء الدین احمد : کیا میں آنریبل ممبر سے یہ درخواست کر سکتا ہوں کہ ہر مذہب اور ہر فرقہ کے لئے ناچنا لازمی نہ کیا جائے۔

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I request the Honourable Member not to make dancing compulsory for members of all communities.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں نہیں سمجھتا کہ اس قسم کا سوال پیدا ہوتا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I do not understand that this sort of question arises here.

OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

879. *Mr. Muhammad Rahmat-Ullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state when the term of service of the officers who are at present holding the following appointments at the headquarters of the Archaeological Department will expire (1) Director General, (2) Joint Director General, (3) Deputy Director General?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of appointing a Muslim to any of these posts?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (اے) ڈائریکٹر جنرل جوائنٹ ڈائریکٹر جنرل اور ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر کے ترمیم آف سروس ۲۳ اپریل-۳۰ جون اور ۱۹ اکتوبر میں ختم ہونے والی ہے۔

(بی) ان جگہوں میں جو آدمی مقرر کئے جاتے ہیں انکا بقدر سلیکشن کے ذریعہ ہونا ہے اور جو آدمی سب سے زیادہ مناسب سمجھا جاتا ہے مقرر کیا جاتا ہے مسلمان امیدوار کا حق بھی مہرت کو سامنے رکھتے ہوئے ضرور خیال رکھ گا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The terms of service of the present Director General of Archaeology, Joint Director General of Archaeology and Deputy Director General of Archaeology will expire on the 23rd April, 30th June and 19th October, 1948 respectively.

(b) Appointment to the said posts is made by selection and the most suitable officers are appointed. The claims of Muslim candidates will certainly be considered on merits at the appropriate time.

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY AS DIRECTOR OF MUSEUMS

880 *Mr. Muhammad Rahmat-Ullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education please state the qualifications prescribed for the posts of Director General of Archaeology and Joint Director General of Archaeology?

(b) Do Government propose to appoint the present Director General of Archaeology to the Post of Director of Museums when he finishes his term of appointment as Director General of Archaeology in India, if so, what are the reasons therefor?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (اے) ڈائریکٹر جنرل آف آر کے یوالجی کے لئے جن کوالیفیکیشنس کا ہونا ضروری ہے وہ یہ ہیں -
(۱) اونچے درجہ کا ایکٹیمک کوالیفیکیشن اور پریکٹیکل ٹریننگ ساہو می آر کے لاجیکل ریسرچ میں مانی ہوئی شہرت -
(۲) کسی آر کے لاجیکل آرگنائیزیشن کے انتظام کا اچھا تجربہ -
(۳) ماقرون آر کے لاجیکل ٹیک ٹیک کی اکسپرٹ نالج نیز چیزوں کے کھودنے نکالنے اور حفاظت سے رکھنے کا تجربہ -

جوائنٹ ڈائریکٹر جنرل کے لئے یہ کوالیفیکیشن ضروری سمجھی گئی ہیں۔

(۱) تیہارتسٹ کے انتظام کی قابلیت -
(۲) گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کے جن تیہارتسٹوں سے آر کے لاجیکل سروے کا تعلق ہے

کہ وہ کس طرح کام کرتے ہیں انکا علم اور تجربہ۔

(۳) آر کے یوالجی کی کسی ایک شاخ کی اکادمک ٹریننگ اور دوسری شاخوں کا

خاص طور پر علم۔

(۴) یونیورسٹیوں اور دوسرے کالجوں انسٹی ٹیوشنوں کے درمیان ایک بیچ

کی کڑی کام کرنیکی استعداد -

(۵) اچھے درجہ کی انتظامی قابلیت -

(بی) نہیں جلد سوال کا دوسرا حصہ پیدا ہی نہیں ہوتا -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The qualifications required for the Director General of Archaeology are

(i) High academic qualification and practical training in Archaeology with established reputation in Archaeological Research

(ii) Sound experience of administration in a well-established Archaeological Organisation

(iii) Expert knowledge of modern archaeological techniques with special reference to conservation and excavation

The qualifications required for the Joint Director General of Archaeology are

(i) Intimate knowledge of the administration of the Department

(ii) First hand knowledge and experience of the working of the Departments of the Government of India with which Archaeological Survey is concerned

(iii) High Academic training in a branch of Archaeology plus a general knowledge of the principles involved in the working of the various branches of Archaeology

(iv) Capacity for good liaison work with Universities and other cultural institutions

(v) Good administrative ability

(b) No, Sir The second part of the question does not arise.

سیٹھ گوند داس : کیا سرکار اس بات کا خیال رکھے گی کہ جہاں تک کوالیفیکیشن

کا معاملہ ہے وہاں ان یونیورسٹیوں کو جو سرکار کے دواڑا اسمبلیت ہوئی ہیں نہ

صرف اسکا خیال رکھے بلکہ شانی نیکمن گروکل اور اس طرح کی دوسری سسٹیمز میں

جہاں ویدیا رہتی پڑھتے ہیں جنہوں نے اس سبب میں اُچ شہشاہ برادری کی ہے انکا بھی

خیال رکھے -

Seth Govind Das: Will the Government bear in mind that so far as the qualifications are concerned the Santiniketan, Gurukul and other institutions where the students acquire higher knowledge, will be treated like the universities established and recognised by the Government?

آئرپیل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ کی آجکل کی تعلیمی پالیسی یہ ہی ہے

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: The present educational policy of the Government is on the same lines

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if this science of archaeology is being taught in any University so as to fit persons in this Department?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں نے ابھی اسکے لئے سوجہ دلائی ہے کہ اس کے لئے خاص کوالیفیکیشن کی ضرورت ہے اور یہ نو قدرتی طور پر سامنے رکھی جا رہی جو جناب نے فرمایا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I have recently directed attention to the fact that it requires a special qualification and what the Honourable Member has said will naturally be borne in mind.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Is the Honourable Member aware that there are many officers in the Archaeological Department competent enough to occupy the post of Director-General of Archaeology and if so, will he consider the desirability of appointing an Indian in the next vacancy?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : موقع پر ضرور ان باتوں پر سوچ وچار کیا جائیگا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: When the time comes these things will be taken into consideration.

شری سری پرکاش : کیا ڈائریکٹر جنرل ایسے بڑے عہدوں کی بھی ضرورت ہے۔

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are such high posts as that of Director General considered necessary?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ایک اس عہدہ کی ضرورت سمجھی گئی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Up to this time it is understood that there is need for this post.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know how long the present Director-General of Archaeology is going to continue and whether he is a superannuated man?

Mr. President: The dates are already given in the reply. Next question.

STRENGTH OF THE INDIAN ARMY COMMUNITY-WISE.

881. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state

(a) the total strength of the Indian Army community-wise (i) at the outbreak of the war (1939), (ii) at the termination of the war (1946), and (iii) as on 22nd February 1947, and

(b) the number of Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers in the Army community-wise (i) at the outbreak of the war (1939), (ii) at the termination of the war (1946), and (iii) as on 22nd February 1947?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (b) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) The strength of the Indian Army (VCOs and IORs) by community at the dates mentioned was :

Community	1-9-39	1-9-45	1-1-47
Hindus	63,000	793,500	360,900
Muslims	53,000	465,000	205,800
Sikhs	24,000	98,500	49,600
Others	1,000	77,000	31,700
Total	141,000	1,434,000	648,000

(b) The strength of Indian Officers (including IMS) for the above-mentioned dates

Community	1-9-39	1-10-45(*)	1-1-47
Hindus	316	6,653	5,525
Muslims	147	3,410	2,731
Sikhs	96	2,218	1,878
Others	67	,580	1,415
Total	626	13,861	11,549

(*) Figures for 1st September 1945 not readily available

It is regretted that separate figures in respect of NCOs are not maintained but since in units with fixed class composition NCOs of a particular class are replaced by members of the same class it is considered that the proportion of NCOs will be roughly as the number of IOs of each community shown above

COMMUNAL PROPORTION OF COMMISSIONED AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

882. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state:

(a) the number of Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers recruited since the 2nd September, 1946; and

(b) how many of these Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers are (1) Hindus, (2) Muslims, (3) Sikhs, (4) Scheduled Castes, (5) Christians, (6) Parsis, and (7) Others?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (b) The information is not readily available. It will be collected and placed on the table of the House in due course

GAZETTED OFFICERS IN THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

883. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state:

(a) the total number of Gazetted Officers employed in his Department since the 2nd September, 1946, and how many of them are (1) Hindus, (2) Muslims, (3) Sikhs, and (4) Others, and

(b) the number of promotions made among Gazetted Officers since the 2nd September, 1946, stating separately how many of them are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and others?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (b) The information is not readily available. It will be collected and placed on the table of the House in due course

PERCENTAGE OF DEMOBILISED SOLDIERS COMMUNITY-WISE

884. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state:

(a) the total number of soldiers, community-wise, demobilised since the 2nd September, 1946;

(b) the percentage of demobilised men in the following communities

(1) Hindus, (2) Muslims, (3) Sikhs, and (4) Others;

(c) the number, community-wise, of King's Commissioned Officers demobilised since the 2nd September, 1946 and the percentage of Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and others amongst them,

(d) the number of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers demobilised, community-wise, since the above date, and the percentage of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and others amongst them, and

(e) the number, community-wise of Non-Commissioned Officers demobilised since the above date and the percentage of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and others among them?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) to (e) The information is not readily available. It will be collected and placed on the table of the House in due course.

COMMUNAL PROPORTION OF EMERGENCY OFFICERS

885. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state

(a) the number of Emergency Officers (i) Commissioned, and (ii) Non-Commissioned, who have been made permanent and how many of them are (1) Hindus, (2) Muslims, (3) Sikhs, and

(b) the number of persons holding temporary ranks who have been made permanent in the following categories: (1) Soldiers, (2) Kings Commissioned Officers, (3) Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, and (4) Non-Commissioned Officers, since 2nd September, 1946, and how many in each category are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and others?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (b) The information is not readily available. It will be collected and placed on the table of the House in due course.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: May I ask the Honourable Member what steps he is taking to remedy the obviously serious defects in his Department?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I think, Sir, the Honourable Member is casting a reflection which is entirely unjustified. In this case the Honourable Member who has put the question has asked for statements community-wise of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and other communities not only with reference to the total figures, but as on the 2nd of September 1946. Now, Sir, I may explain that the Government do not maintain figures from date to date. Figures of demobilisation, of discharge and of recruitment are maintained from year to year, and month to month, but not with reference to the date to which my Honourable friend has directed his question. I therefore strongly resent the statement made by my Honourable friend from the opposite side.

Mr. Leslie Gwillt: My Honourable friend resented the last question. I think "Power" mechanical machines are used for keeping check of the community members in the Army, of demobilisation, recruitment etc. May I know whether there are or not cards used with these machines for each individual in the Army?

Mr. President: That will be, to my mind, a matter of argument. Obviously the information has to be collected.

DEMAND OF INCOME-TAX FROM INDIAN NATIONALS IN SAIGON

886. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether any representations have been made by the Indian Nationals in Saigon Indo-China to the effect that during the War from 1941 to 1946 and the Japanese occupation of French Indo-China, most of the Indians lost their properties and business on account of the destruction due to bombing and devaluation of currency;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Income-Tax Department in India are demanding Income-Tax and Super-Tax for the above periods, though the Indians of French Indo-China have not received any money during the period; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to instruct the Commissioners of Income-Tax in the respective Provinces, to defer further action on assessment for the said period, till Government investigate into the matter?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) No such representation has been made to Government though I understand that Indian residents of French Indo-China told the Honourable Mr. M S Aney informally at Saigon, during his tour of South East Asia in January 1946, that damage to Indian property had occurred through looting by Annamites and Allied bombing

(b) and (c) In the assessments completed so far, the normal procedure of the Income-tax Act has been followed. In view of the time-limit laid down in the Act for the completion of assessments, no suspension of proceedings such as that suggested is feasible. But the Government of India have taken steps to secure that no demand for tax will be enforced till the correct position is ascertained

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: May I know whether such instructions have been sent to the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I don't know how the Provincial Governments come into the picture. This is about Income-tax

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: I was referring to the Income-tax Commissioners of the Provinces

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I have said, Sir, in my reply that the Government of India have taken steps to secure that no demand for tax will be enforced till the correct position is ascertained

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: Have any specific instructions been sent to the Income-tax Officers in Madras Province in this respect?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I will make enquiries. If my Honourable friend sees me later on I can tell him

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When Burma was raided by the Japanese for a whole year or two years was the collection of Income-tax suspended by the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes, during that period it was suspended

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: So far as Indian Nationals in Indo-China are concerned, in view of the facts alleged, cannot similar arrangements be made, and cannot suspension be made for a year of the levy of Income-tax?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I have said that everything that can be done within the law will be done

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Will the Honourable Member please say whether instructions have been sent to the Madras Government, or rather to the Income-tax Commissioner of the province?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I have already answered that question. I will make enquiries about it

LEGISLATION FOR ISSUE OF FIRE-ARMS IN INDIA

887. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether Government propose to introduce legislation for the issue of licences for fire-arms in India on the lines of those in force in other free countries of the world? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no information regarding this law in force in other countries. But the question of introducing legislation or relaxing the existing rules in India is being considered in consultation with the Provincial Governments.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what the position is regarding Members of the Central Assembly?

Mr President: I believe the exemption in respect of Members of the Central Assembly is already there.

PAYMENT OF RS. 10-8-0 PER ANNUM BY EVERY LICENCE HOLDER OF GUNS IN DELHI

888. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether Government have made it compulsory for every licence-holder of guns in Delhi to pay Rs. 10-8-0 per annum even though he does not shoot games in the Province of Delhi? If so, why?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

†889. *

(The Honourable Member for Education was not in his seat)

Mr. President: Question No. 889 may be passed over.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: When will it be answered, Sir?

Mr. President: It will be answered tomorrow.†

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will it get priority over other questions

Mr. President: It will, I will give it as a special case

NATIONAL WAR ACADEMY NEAR POONA.

†890. ***Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the establishment of the National War Academy near Poona is being delayed? If so, why?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Consideration of this question is awaiting a decision on the size of the future Armed Forces

DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

†891. ***Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether Government propose to make the Directorate of Public Relations a part of the Information and Broadcasting Department now that the war is over?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The whole question of the future of the Directorate of Public Relations is under the consideration of Government.

INDIAN UNDER-TRIALS IMPRISONED IN THE ANDAMANS.

†892. ***Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there are 13 Indian under-trials (including Pushkar Nath Bagchei) imprisoned in the Andamans against whom it is alleged that they carried out the Jap orders during the Japanese occupation of the islands?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Twelve persons (including Pushkar Nath Bagchei) are in custody under trial for offences against the ordinary criminal law committed against residents of the Islands during the Japanese occupation.

†Postponed to be answered on the 17th March, 1947, vide Mr President's remarks on p. 1767 of these debates.

‡ Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

BAN ON THE RETURN OF PROF. KHANKHOJI FROM MEXICO.

†893. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that there has been a ban on the entry into India of Prof. Khankhoji who has been in exile for the last 30 years?

(b) If so, do Government propose to lift the said ban, so as to facilitate his return from Mexico to his mother-country?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) There is no ban on the return of Professor Khankhoji to India.

(b) Does not arise.

MOVE OF THE PENSIONS BRANCH OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT TO SIMLA.

894. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pensions Branch of the Defence Department is shortly to be moved up to Simla, if so, whether Government propose to provide accommodation to all the ministerial establishment including the inferior servants;

(b) whether it is a fact that this office was recently brought down from Simla, if so, the reasons for sending it up again; and

(c) whether Government are aware that such constant moves of offices seriously dislocate the education of the employees' children and particularly of the low paid and that they involve considerable extra expenditure?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sir. The accommodation available for all concerned is being examined at present.

(b) Yes, Sir, it was brought down in the interest of efficiency and because the accommodation position in Delhi had become easier. It has now become worse again.

(c) Yes, Sir, and they deeply regret it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long is it since the Branch was brought from Simla to Delhi?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: A little less than one year.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the special circumstances which have within this short time contributed to the housing shortage in Delhi?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: My Honourable friend the Secretary for the Works, Mines and Power Department will be able to explain that better. But, as my Honourable friend knows, there has been a considerable expansion in the personnel of the various Departments of the Central Government. There has also been an increase in demand for accommodation from Consulates, Legations and other offices. In consequence, Government had to take stock of the whole accommodation position, and it was decided that this particular Branch had to move to Simla.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member be good enough to apply his mind to this particular matter specially and see whether any mistake has not been made, and also take steps to see that similar mistakes are not repeated again and again?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I do not admit that a mistake was committed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will he look into it carefully?

Mr. President: Order, order. The Question Hour is over.

Mr. President: I may just inform Mr. Sanyal that Question No 889, instead of being placed tomorrow, will be placed on the next day† when the Education Member has to answer his questions and will be given priority.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

‡ Postponed to be answered on the 17th March, 1947.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES NATIONALISATION COMMITTEE**

895. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether the Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee has made any interim recommendations to Government?

(b) If so, what are the main recommendations made by the Committee and how far have these recommendations been implemented or are proposed to be implemented? If so, when and in what manner?

(c) Are Government aware that the sub-committee of the Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee has expressed dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Selection Boards have been functioning and demobilization has been carried out?

(d) Has demobilization been effected with due regard to the requirements of the nationalisation of the Army?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The recommendations are under the consideration of Government, but the Government do not consider it desirable to publish them until a final decision has been reached

(c) No, Sir

(d) Yes, Sir

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ADMISSIONS TO INDIAN AUXILIARY FORCE

896. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian Auxiliary Force is open to Europeans Anglo-Indians, Chinese, Jews, Negroes, etc. but not to the nationals of this country?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for making this racial discrimination?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of removing these restrictions?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) No, Sir. The Auxiliary Force (India) is open to (i) European British subjects as defined in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and (ii) British subjects of European descent in the male line. These include Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans who are nationals of this country.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir, since there can clearly be no place for a force such as the Auxiliary Force (India), as at present constituted in a self-governing India, and the Force is likely to be wound up not later than June 1948.

COMMUNAL HOLIDAYS TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

897. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that with the termination of the war, the reasons for granting communal holidays to Government servants have disappeared; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of abolishing all communal holidays and converting them into general holidays?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) The practice of granting communal holidays in addition to a fixed number of closed holidays has been in existence since 1923 and has no relation to war conditions.

(b) The question of holidays for the staff is already under the consideration of the Pay Commission.

PROSECUTIONS FOR DISTURBANCES ON VICTORY DAY IN 1946

898. **Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prosecutions that have been made in Delhi in connection with the disturbances that occurred on Victory Day in 1946,

(b) the names of the accused persons whose cases have been disposed of, giving the nature of punishments awarded in each case;

(c) the names of the accused persons whose cases are still pending in Court; and

(d) whether Government of India are considering the question of releasing those, who have been convicted in this connection?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Twenty nine

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the table

(d) The Government of India have already issued orders to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, for the withdrawal of cases, remission of sentences or cancellation of bonds, in all the cases except the following (i) Serious cases of arson, and (ii) dacoity

Statement of case regarding V-Day disturbances, Delhi, 1946

(a) Decided cases including cases withdrawn *italicised*

S. No.	Name of accused	Case number etc	Result
1	Nash Natha Mann	1 F.I.R. No. 75, dated 7-3-46 P.S. Sadar Bazar U/S 435/434/147 I.P.C.	1 8 months' R.I. for the burning of G.N.I.T. on 19-12-46
		2 F.I.R. No. 75, dated 7-3-46 P.S. Sadar Bazar, U/S 436 I.P.C.	2 1 year's R.I. for burning of post office on Library Rd. on 19-12-46
		3 Ditto	3 9 months' R.I. for burning of Terminal Tax Post on 19-12-46 (Sentences to run consecutively.)
		4 F.I.R. No. 68, dated 16-3-46 U/R 38 D.I.R. P.S. Subzamandi.	4 <i>Case withdrawn</i>
		5 F.I.R. No. 68, dated 16-3-46 U/R 56, D.I.R. P.S. Subzamandi.	5 <i>Ditto</i>
2	Hira Singh	Involved in cases 1 to 3 above only.	Four months' R.I. in case No. 1 above, on 19-12-46 In cases Nos 2 and 3 above acquitted
3	Om Parkash	Ditto	Ditto.
4	Ram Singh	Ditto	Ditto.

S. No.	Name of accused	Case number etc.	Result
5	Ram Chander Tyagi	1. F.I.R. No. 75, dated 7-3-46 P. S. Sadar Bazar, U/S 435/147 I.P.C. 2. F.I.R. No. 75, dated 7-3-46 P. S. Sadar Bazar, U/S 435/147 I.P.C. 3 Ditto 4 F.I.R. No. 68, dated 16-3-46, U/R 56, D.I.R. P. S. Sabzmandi.	1 6 months' R.I. for burning of G.N.I.T. Bus, on 19-12-46. 2. Acquitted on 19-12-46 3 Acquitted on 19-12-46 4 Case withdrawn.
6	Khem Raj	Involved in cases 1 to 3 above	1 4 months' R.I. on 19-12-46, 2 and 3 acquitted
7	Mungul Dass	Involved in 3 cases as above	Convicted in No. 1 case as above on 19-12-46 2 and 3 acquitted
8	Dhare	Ditto	Convicted and released U/S 562 Cr. P. C. in case No. 1 and ordered to furnish S.B. in the sum of Rs. 750 for one year Acquitted in the remaining 2 cases
9	Chuni Lal	Ditto	Ditto
10	Shaw Charan	Involved in 3 cases as above (Serial No. 7)	Convicted and released U/S 562 Cr. P. C. in case No. 1 and ordered to furnish S.B. in the sum of Rs. 750 for one year. Acquitted in the remaining 2 cases
11	Khehi	Ditto	Ditto.
12	Misri Lal	Ditto	Ditto.
13	Mam Chand	Ditto	Ditto
14	Albah Bakha	Ditto	Ditto.
15	Fayaz	Ditto	Ditto.
16	Dip Chand	Ditto	Ditto.
17	Chhote Lal	1 F.I.R. No. 75, dated 7-3-46 U/S 435/147 I.P.C. P. S. Sadar Bazar 2. F.I.R. No. 75, dated 7-3-46 U/S 435/147 I.P.C. P. S. Sadar Bazar. 3 Ditto	1 Four months' R.I. for burning G.N.I.T. Bus on 19-12-46 2 Acquitted. 3 Ditto.
18	Ram Lal	Involved in three cases as above	1. As above. 2 and 3. Acquitted.

No.	name of accused	Case number etc.	Result
19	Ishwar Dhutt	F I R No 58, dated 7-3-46 U/S 436/147 I P C., P. S Subzimandi	1. Sentenced to imprisonment till the rising of the court, on 31-1-47 for burning of Railway Clearing Accounts Office
		2 Ditto	2. Nine months' R I or burning of Timber Godown on 31-1-47.
		3 Ditto	3 Acquitted.
20	Bawa Ram Chander	Involved in cases 1 to 3 above	1 One year for burning Rail- way Clearing Accounts Office.
		and 4 F I R No. 68, dated 16-3-46 U/R 38 D I R. P S Subzimandi	2. Nine months' R I 3 Ditto.
		5 Ditto	4, 5 and 6 withdrawn.
		6 F I R No 68, dated 16-3-46 U/R 56 D I R. P S Subzimandi	
21	Mahabir Parshad	Involved in cases Nos 1 and 2 noted on SI No 19 above	1 One year's R.I. on 31-1-47. 2. Nine months' R.I. on 31-1-47.
22	Babu alias Ahmad Husain	Involved in 3 cases as noted on SI No 19	Acquitted in all three cases
23	Kishan Singh	Ditto	Ditto.
24	Jukka	Ditto	Ditto
25	Gunder Singh	Ditto	Ditto
26	Ah Bux	1 F I R No 58, dated 7-3-46 U/S 436/147 I P C., P S Subzimandi, Delhi	Acquitted. — 1 for burning of Railway Clearing Accounts Office.
		Ditto	2. for burning of Timber Go- down.
		Ditto	3 for burning of Terminal Tax Post
		4 F I R No 58, dated 7-3-46 U/S 427 I P C., P S Subzimandi.	4 Sentenced to 6 months' R.I. for the burning of Electric Pole Near Kamlu Nager.
27	Babu Lal	Ditto (4 cases as above)	As above.
28	Ahmad Khan	Involved in cases No. 1 to 3 as above.	Acquitted in all three cases (noted on SI. No. 26).

S. No.	Name of accused	Case number etc.	Result
29	Dev Dutt . . .	Involved in cases No. 1 and 2 noted on Sl. No. 26	Acquitted in both cases.
30	Ajmal Ahmad . .	Ditto	Ditto
31	Naba Khan . . .	Ditto	Ditto.
		3. F.I.R. No. 68, dated 16-3-46 U/R 38 D.I.R. P.S. Subzimandi 4. F.I.R. No. 68, dated 16-3-46 U/R 56 D.I.R., P.S. Subzimandi.	Third and fourth withdrawn.
32	Karam Singh	Involved in two cases No. 1 and 2 noted on Sl. No. 26 above.	Ditto.
33	Isam Uddin	1. F.I.R. No. 221, dated 7-3-46 U/S 130/147 I.P.C. P.S. Kotwali	1. Acquitted.
34	Ikrin Uddin	Ditto . . .	Ditto.
35	Sarwan Singh	Ditto . . .	Ditto.
36	Piara Singh	Ditto . . .	Ditto.
37	Sher Khan . . .	1. Ditto . . . 2. Ditto 3. Ditto . . .	Acquitted — 1. Burning of Fire Brigade 2. Burning of Railway Station Ration Godown. 3. Burning of Terminal Tax Post and Sub-Rationing Office near Railway Station.
38	Karpin Bindur Singh	1. Ditto 2. Ditto . . . 3. Ditto . . . 4. Ditto . . . 5. Ditto . . . 6. Ditto . . .	1. Acquitted in — Burning of (1) Fire Brigade. 2. Railway Ration Godown 3. Terminal Tax Post. 4. Victory Gate near Fatchpuri 5. Police Vanette 6. Pending in court (burning of Town Hall)
39	Bhagat Singh Kirti	Involved in cases Nos. 1 and 2 (noted on Sl. No. 38) 2. F.I.R. No. 68, dated 16-3-46 U/R 38 D.I.R. P.S. Subzimandi. 3. F.I.R. No. 68, dated 16-3-46 U/R 38, D.I.R. P.S. Subzimandi 4. F.I.R. No. 68 dated 16-3-46 U/R 56, D.I.R. P.D. Subzimandi	Acquitted in both the cases. Number 3 and 4 withdrawn.

Sl. No.	Name of accused	Case number etc	Result
40	Jagat Singh .	Involved in 4 cases No. 1 and 2 noted on Sl No. 39. 3. Ditto . 4. Ditto .	Acquitted in No. 1 and 2 mentioned above. 3 Withdrawn (case of burning of Victory Gate near Town Hall) 4 Pending in Court (case of burning of Town Hall)
41	Som Dev . . .	Involved in 3 cases as above on Sl No. 40	Acquitted in all the three cases. The Third case against him relates to burning of Victory Gate Fatehpuri
42	Babu son of Kanya	Ditto Nos. 1 and 2 above.	Acquitted in both the cases
43	Baure . . .	Involved in cases Nos. 1, 2 and 3 as on Sl No. 38. 4 F.I.R. No. 221 dated 7.3.46, U/S 436/147 P. S. Kotwali.	Acquitted in all the three cases. 4 Pending in court (for burning of Town Hall)
44	Abdul Hakim .	Ditto .	Ditto
45	Rudmet . . .	1. Ditto . 2. Ditto 3. Ditto 4. Ditto .	1 Acquitted for burning of Fire Brigade. 2 Acquitted for burning of RLY Rationing Godown 3 Sentenced to one Year's R I, for burning of R I tax post on 30.8.46 4 Case pending in Court (Town Hall burning)
46	Mukhtar	Involved in cases Nos. 1 and 2 above only.	Acquitted in both the cases.
47	Abdul Jabbar .	1. Ditto 2. Involved in case Nos. 1 and 2, U/S 436/149 I.P.C., P. S. Kotwali.	1 Acquitted 2 Ditto
48	Ganesh .	1. Ditto 2. Ditto U/S 436/147 I.P.C., P. S. Kotwali	1 Sentenced to 9 months R I, on 30.8.46 for burning of Victory Gate Fatehpuri 2 Sentenced to 1½ years' R I on 14.10.46 for burning of Reserve Bank.
49	Wazir Uddin .	Involved in case No. 1 on Sl No. 46.	Acquitted.

Sl No	Name of accused	Case number etc.	Result
50	Kure Mal	1 Involved in case No 2 on Sl No 45 above 2, F.I.R. No. 221, dated 7-3-46 U/S 435/149 I.P.C. P. S Kotwah	1. Acquitted for burning of Railway Godown 2 Sentenced to 9 months' on 30-8-46, for burning of Victory Gate, Fatehpuri
51	Diwan Chand	1 As above on Sl No 50	1 Acquitted.
52	Malinder Singh	1 As above on Serial No 50 2 Ditto U/S 435 I.P.C. 3. Ditto U/S 436/147 I.P.C.	1 Sentence to six months' for burning of Electric Pole in Kauri Boli 2 Case withdrawn (burning of Victory Gate near Town Hall). 3 Town Hall burning case pending in Court
53	Satpal Singh	1 F I R No 121, dated 7-3-46, U/S 435/147/332 I P C P S Kotwah 2 Ditto U/S 435/147 I P C 3 Ditto U/S 435/148 I P.C	One year's R I for burning of Police Vanette 9 months' U/S R I. 332 I.P.C. and 6 months' R I U/S 147 I P C on 18-12-46 One year's R I for burning of Electric Pole near Central Bank on 14-10-46 3 One year's R I for burning a Victory Gate near Reserve Bank on 16-10-46.
54	Basta Singh	1 Ditto (as above at No. 1.) 2 Ditto U/S 436/149 I P C 3 Ditto U/S 436 147/149/ I P C	Same as at No. above. 2. Case withdrawn (Burning of Victory Gate near Town Hall). 3. Case pending in court (Town Hall burning)
55	Sidhar Singh	1 Ditto 2 Ditto 3 Ditto 4 Ditto	Cases 1 to 3 acquitted 4. Case pending in court (Town Hall burning)
56	Shyam Lal	1 Ditto 2. Ditto 3. Ditto	Acquitted in two cases. 3. Pending in court (Town Hall burning).
57	Muni Lal	1 Ditto 2 do U/S 435/147 I.P.C	1. Discharged. (For burning of Police Vanette). 2. Sentenced to one year's R.I. (for burning a Victory Gate near Reserve Bank.)

Sl. No	Name of accused	Cases number etc.	Result
58	Harish Chander .	1. F I R No 221, dated 7-3-46, U/S 435/147 - I P C, P. S. Kotwali	1 Discharged
59	Mohd. Ishaq .	1. Ditto . .	1. Withdrawn.
60	Mahfuz Illahi .	1. Ditto . .	1 Withdrawn
61	Shiv Datt Kale .	1 Ditto 2 Ditto . .	Acquitted in case Nos 1 and 2
		3. do U/S 436/147 I P C	3 One case of Electric Pole burning withdrawn
62	Jalal Khan .	1. Ditto . .	1 Acquitted
63	Ram Kishan .	1 do U/S 436/147 I P C	1 1½ year's R.I. for burning of Reserve Bank on 14-10-46
64	Dalip Singh .	1. do U/S 453/148 I P.C.	1. 1 year's R.I. for burning of Victory Gate near Reserve Bank on 16-10-46
		2 do. U/S 436/147/ 149, I P.C.	2. Case pending in court (Town Hall burning)
65	Om Parkash .	1 Ditto . .	1 1 year's R.I. for burning a Victory Gate near Reserve Bank on 16-10-46
66	Mohd. Fahim .	1. do U/S 435/147 I.P.C.	Cases of burning of Electric Pole and Victory Gate withdrawn
		2 do. U/S 435/149 I P.C.	
		3. do. U/S 436/149 I.P.C.	Case of Town Hall burning pending in court.
		4 do. U/S 435/149 I P.C.	Acquitted in case of Victory Gate burning near Reserve Bank.
67	Yad Ram .	1. Ditto . .	1. Case withdrawn.
68	Mohd. Bashir .	1 Ditto . .	1 Case withdrawn.
69	Mst. Shanti .	1. Ditto . .	1. Case withdrawn.
70	Amer Singh .	1 Ditto . .	1. Case withdrawn.
		2. do. U/S 436/149 I.P.C.	2. Pending (burning of Town Hall).
71	Faiz Ali .	1. do. U/S 435/149 I.P.C.	1. Acquitted
		2. do. U/S 435/149 I.P.C.	the other withdrawn.
72	Ghias-ud-din .	1. do. U/S 435/147 I.P.C.	1. Case withdrawn.
		2. do. U/S 436/147 I.P.C.	2. Case pending in court (for burning of Town Hall)

Sl. No.	Name of accused	Case number etc	Result
73	Khurshia	1. F.I.R. No. 221, dated 7-3-46, U/S 436/149 I.P.C. P.S. Kotwahi. 2 do U/S 436/149 I.P.C.	1. Case withdrawn. 2. Pending (Burning of Town Hall)
74	Allah Dad	1 do U/S 436/147 I.P.C.	1 Pending in Court.
75	Mazhar Jamil	1 Ditto	1. Pending in court.
76	Faruqi	1. F.I.R. No. 221, dated 7-3-46, U/S 435/149 I.P.C., P.S. Kotwahi.	1 Sentenced on 22-7-46 to undergo 6 months, R.I. U/S 147 I.P.C., and 9 months, R.I. U/S 43 I.P.C. burning of a Victory Gate near Fatehpuri.
77	Lal Behari Pande	1 F.I.R. No. 58, dated 7-3-46, U/S 436 I.P.C., P.S. Sabzmandi.	1. Sentenced to 1 year's R.I. on 9-10-46 for burning Railway Clearing Account Office.
78	Mun Ram	1 F.I.R. No 106, dated 7-3-46, U/S 396/149 I.P.C. P.S. G.R.P. Delhi.	1 Sentenced to 2 years, R.I. on 23-5-46 for looting Railway Booking Office, Delhi
79	Ismail Faruqi	1 F.I.R. No. 223, dated 7-3-46, U/S 34/38 D.I.R., P.S. Kotwahi	1 Sentenced to 6 months R.I. on 7-6-46 for inciting Tramway Coy. strike.
80	R C Mitta	1 Ditto	1 Ditto.
81	Abdul Wahid	1. Ditto	1. Ditto.
82	Mohd Yamin	1. F.I.R. No 68, dated 16-3-46, U/R 38 D.I.R. P.S. Sabzmandi 2 do U/R 56 D.I.R. P.S. Sabzmandi	Both cases withdrawn.
83	Shakil Ahmad	Ditto	Ditto.
84	Harbandhan	Ditto	Ditto.
85	Ved Parkash	1. F.I.R. No 68, dated 16-3-46 U/R 38 D.I.R., P.S. Sabzmandi.	1. Case withdrawn.

(b) Pending case.

Only one case viz., that with regard to the burning of Town Hall on 7-3-46 is pending in court. The accused in this case are as follows:—

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Amar Singh. | 2 Dalip Singh. |
| 3. Sham Lal. | 4 Jyoti Singh. |
| 5. Mohinder Singh. | 6. Mohd. Fahim. |
| 7. Allah Dad. | 8. Ghiasuddin. |
| 9. Basta Singh. | 10. Sardara Singh. |
| 11. Kirpan Bahadur. | 12. Khurshid. |
| 13. Mazhar Jamil. | 14. Bhuro. |
| 15. Abdul Hakim. | 16. Rahmat. |

Note.—All these 16 accused have figured in one or the other case under (a).

VIEWS OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE PENSIONS INCREASE BILL

899. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement of Mr Arthur Henderson, Under Secretary of State for India, in the House of Commons on 11th February, 1947 that the British Government had asked the Indian Government for their views on the question of applying the Pensions Increase Bill to both Civil and Military Pensioners of Indian Services and that they had received no reply?

(b) If so, do Government propose to state whether their views have since been conveyed and if so, what they are?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Yes

(b) The matter is still under correspondence with Provincial Governments. The Central Government have however expressed their willingness to the existing scale of increases being continued in respect of their pensioners pending consideration of the further increases proposed in the Bill

DISMISSED AND DISCHARGED PERSONNEL OF THE INDIAN ARMY WHO JOINED I N A

900. *Sri Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state.

(a) how many of the officers and other ranks of the Indian Army who joined the Indian National Army have been dismissed and how many have been discharged,

(b) the basis on which Government discharged some and dismissed others,

(c) how many Commissioned Officers, Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and other ranks of the Indian Army who joined the Indian National Army have been retained in the Army, and

(d) the reasons for retaining some officers and men and removing others from service?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Dismissed—6,175 Discharged—13,211

(c) Commissioned Officers—21 V C Os and I O Rs—3,859

It is regretted that figures for V C Os and I O Rs separately are not available

(b) and (d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Press Communique issued on the 30th of November 1945 and the debate on Pandit Govind Malaviya's adjournment motion in the last budget session

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MONEY GRANT TO VISHWABHARATI

78. Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state

(a) the amount granted so far to the Vishwabharati;

(b) whether Government have any definite policy with regard to the grant of money to this institution, and

(c) whether there are any conditions attached to the grants that have been made so far?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Since the financial year 1941-42, an annual grant of Rs. 25,000 has been paid to the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, in recognition of the contribution that they have made to the aesthetic education of this country. In the present year the grant has been raised to Rs. 30,000. In addition, Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 12,500 have also been paid to the Visva-Bharati towards their Dearness Allowance grant in 1944-45

and 1945-46 respectively. The annual grant is paid on submission of audited statement of accounts and the annual report of the Institute for the preceding year.

On the occasion of their Silver Jubilee Celebrations in December 1946, a special grant of Rs. 4,75,000 has been paid to the Institute in recognition of their services rendered to the country. The grant will be spent in improving some of the existing facilities of the Institution, such as residential accommodation, sanitation etc.

At the request of the Central Government, the Visva-Bharati Authorities have undertaken to set up an institute for training teachers in arts and crafts in connection with the scheme of educational development. The total cost of the project would amount to Rs. 49 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 75,000 recurring. Against this scheme, in 1946-47, rupees three lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 25,000 recurring, based on actual requirements have been sanctioned. This is, however, a financial assistance for carrying out a particular project and cannot be considered a grant to the main institution.

(b) The Government have recognised the good work done by the Institution and the main object of the financial assistance has been to put the Institution on a sound financial footing.

(c) Subject to the remarks made above, no other conditions have been attached to the grants.

EUROPEAN OR AMERICAN MANAGED RUPEE COMPANIES CARRYING ON BUSINESS IN INDIA

79. **Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(a) whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a list of rupee companies, under the management of Europeans or Americans, carrying on business in British India;

(b) whether these companies have been supplying regularly returns prescribed in section 19-A of the Indian Income-tax Act;

(c) which of these companies are private companies;

(d) whether section 23-A of the Indian Income Tax Act has been applied to these companies;

(e) the amount of total dividends distributed by these companies during the financial years 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1945-46;

(f) how much of this dividend was paid to (i) investment companies, (1) registered in British India, (2) registered outside British India, (ii) other non-resident companies, and (iii) non-resident individuals;

(g) whether any super-tax was deducted at source under section 18 (3D) of the Indian Income-tax Act, from dividends payable to non residents and if so, the amount of super-tax revenue short recovered from this source;

(h) whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a list of the investment companies registered in British India to which dividend referred to in part (f) above were paid;

(i) which of these companies were exempted from super-tax under the Finance Department Notification No. 47, dated 9th December, 1933; and

(j) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of having returns on these lines published annually along with the report of the Central Board of Revenue?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) to (j) The Government do not consider that the expenditure of time and labour involved in compiling the information asked for would be commensurate with any results that may be expected to be achieved.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

PROPOSED TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF CIVILIAN ORDNANCE OFFICERS

Mr. President: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from the Honourable Member, Mr Guruswami, who wants to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely

"The proposed termination of services of Ordnance Officers (Civilian) of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps beginning from 14th March, 1947 despite the interim recommendation of the Nationalisation Committee to withdraw the notices and release a corresponding number of British officers "

May I know what the Honourable the Defence Secretary has to say?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (Government of India Nominated Official) Notices have been issued to 135 Ordnance Officers, civilians, because their services are no longer required. These 135 Ordnance officers have to go in any circumstances

12 Noon Notices have been issued on the principle of 'last in, first out'. There are at present 1,636 Indians on the officer strength of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps but the future total officer strength cannot possibly be more than 750. It will probably be less. Out of this 750, not more than 650 can be military officers, for which there are 706 Indian military officers to compete and not more than 100 can be civilians for which there are 930 to compete. This leaves no room for doubt that the 135 who are under notice will have to go very soon. A suggestion was made that certain British Emergency Commissioned Officers should be asked to go first. The majority of these Emergency Commissioned Officers hold positions of considerable responsibility and are not young officers without experience, as the title 'emergency commissioned officers' would suggest. The real problem therefore is to replace these officers with Indians who have to be given the opportunity to qualify for these higher posts. This can and will be done before June 1948. How best it can be done is now under investigation in relation to the overall problem of the armed forces. This investigation has been specifically set to the Chiefs of Staff Committee by the Nationalisation Committee.

The position therefore is that there are very many more Indian officers than can be provided for in the post-war army and therefore I suggest that the services of these 135 officers to whom notices have been given have been rightly terminated. It has been often urged in this House that there should be retrenchment on the expenditure on the Defence Budget. Here is a case in which a suggestion has been made that the release of these officers should not be made.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput Non-Mohammadan Rural) On a point of information. Is the Honourable Member discussing the merits of the motion now?

Mr. President: No. He is mentioning the facts in connection with this motion, so that the House and the President may appreciate the importance and the urgency of the matter.

The point, as it appears to me, is that the Government have set aside the recommendations of the Nationalisation Committee and instead of releasing the British personnel they are releasing the Indian personnel. That seems to be the point. It is not the point that no Indian officers should be given notice of release. On account of retrenchment many people will certainly have to go but the point is why Britishers are kept and Indians are released. That seems to be the point.

Diwan Ghaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) How many Britishers are there?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I tried to explain that these emergency commissioned officers are holding special posts of responsibility and the whole problem of retrenching these people and terminating their services is being carefully considered and a decision will be taken in the near future. Till that decision is

[Mr G. S. Bhalja] taken, I submit that in any case these 135 officers who were the last to be appointed have to go, because even if all those 600 officers—assuming the number given by the Honourable Member is correct—even if their services are terminated, even then we have more officers than we have got work for and therefore some have to go and these are the officers who joined last and therefore their services have got to be terminated

Diwan Chaman Lal: Are all these 611 officers holding posts of great responsibility?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have not got detailed information as to how those officers have been posted. Many of them, I understand, are outside India, in Burma and other places. But the point which I am making is that Government are drawing out a definite programme for the termination of the services of these emergency commissioned officers as soon as possible and in any case within less than 15 months and therefore even if their services were not terminated today, these officers will have to go, unless we keep on the roll of the army persons for whom jobs must be found, even though there is no work for them.

Mr. President: Do I understand that the British officers will have to go by the 30th June 1948? All these are 600 people?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Yes. The Government have further directed that no further retrenchment notices will be issued to these personnel, until the question of terminating the services of the emergency commissioned officers has been decided by the Government.

Mr. President: What about those who are already served with notices?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: They are men for whom we cannot provide work and have to go.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) May I remind you that he has not said anything about the recommendation made by the Nationalisation Committee. They must have found some means of adjusting the position?

Mr. President. The recommendation is to release a corresponding number of British officers. With reference to that some questions were put. It appears that from the facts disclosed there seems to be no case of urgency about this matter.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Very serious urgency.

Mr. President: I am stating my own reactions before I finally say as to whether I agree or do not agree. The point seems to me to be that certain people who have been served with notice have, in any case, to go because there are not sufficient jobs. Then the only question is about preference being given to Britishers as against the Indians. We are not in a position to judge about the individual merits of those officers who are retained. (Interruption by Mr Ayyangar) The Honourable Member will not interrupt while I am speaking. Then, the other point that he has stated is that Government have now decided not to retrench or give notice for release to any further Indian officials. He has also stated that, in any case, all these Britishers are going by the 30th June 1948. So, the point of the adjournment motion, to my mind, on the ground of urgency is lost now in view of the statements which he has made. The question as to what should be done with reference to the notices which have already been served is an entirely different question. That is a question which may be considered by the Department or the Members of this House may make recommendations to the Government on that point. But that need not be a subject of an adjournment motion. The policy is now settled.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask you, Mr. President, as to whether you are convinced that the statement that all these officers have got to go is really correct? We have been informed on the Defence Consultative Committee that the post-war numbers have not been fixed. We do not know whether the figure will be 650 or 1160. In fact, nobody knows. My Honourable friend who is himself a Member of the Defence Consultative Committee was not in a position to tell us what the numbers would be. May I, therefore, suggest that the urgency of this matter arises because of certain recommendations made to the Department by the Nationalisation Committee, which, I understand, have been flouted? Further, the urgency arises because even if these people have got to go after a year, there is no necessity to let them go now when instead of these, certain others who ought to go should have been demobbed.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce): May I add one more word to this? We are not satisfied with the statement of the Honourable the Defence Secretary. He said that these emergency officers were doing work of great responsibility and he tried to justify the fact that some of the Europeans being out of the country it was not possible to deal with the batch of Europeans in this lot who are being sent away. Excuses have been found for prolonging the services of the Europeans, a point which is much more serious from the point of view of finance. We feel that the Defence Department's energetic pursuit for the reduction of expenses is not there. We feel this on general grounds and specifically on this ground we would very much like to have a discussion on this subject.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I also add a word, Sir? These are civilians who are first class graduates from Indian Universities and many of them are M.A.'s. So, until the last European quits this country, not a single Indian should be retrenched.

Mr. President: I am not concerned on this occasion with the merits of the case. I am only deciding the question of the admissibility of this motion. As regards the statement of facts, I think I must accept the Secretary's statement as a true statement of facts coming, as it does, from Government.

Diwan Chaman Lall: You might ask the Secretary whether he has any definite information that a policy of this nature has at any time been laid down and any decision arrived at in regard to the numbers to be retained.

Mr. President: I am afraid it is not necessary for the present purpose, because he has also argued the alternative that they have at present just the number of men that the future strength of army may require.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The number of Indian Military officers is 706.

Mr. President: Whatever the importance of the question on the merits may be, so far as the urgency of the matter is concerned now, in view of the facts that have come out during the course of the discussion, I do not think I can treat the matter as urgent so that the adjournment motion may be admitted.

As regards the merits of the question, Honourable Members will have an opportunity when the Finance Bill comes before the House to discuss the same as they may like.

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA RENT CONTROL BILL

[PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE]

Mr. B. K. Gokhale (Government of India. Nominated Official): Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to make better provision for the control of rents in certain areas in the provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (CONTROL) BILL

[PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE]

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member): Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to continue for a limited period powers to prohibit or control imports and exports.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd*

SECOND STAGE—*contd*.

DEMAND No. 55—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES—*contd*.

Inadequate Supply and Mismanaged distribution of Yarn amongst Handloom Weavers and Fisherman.—contd

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the consideration of the cut motions

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammedan Rural): Sir, I would like to say a few words on this cut motion. Surely, this Department is in the hands of a very able administrator, but I am afraid of the arguments that he may advance and he may refer to things for which he is not responsible and which happened before he came to this Department. So, I am more afraid of his arguments and not of his talents which are really very useful. Therefore, with very great caution I am only making a few suggestions for his consideration and if he will take them into his consideration, I am sure will be able to do a great lot to this handloom industry. The object of this cut motion is to have greater production and to secure employment for the handloom workers in this country. There are about 2½ million handloom weavers and if you include their family members also they come to 13 million odd and they are all living on this handloom industry, whereas the power loom provides occupation only for 500,000 or even less than half a million of workers. Therefore, this problem assumes much greater importance than is ordinarily realised.

Now, Sir, there are two portions of this cut motion. One relates to the increase in the output of yarn for the purpose of consumption by handloom weavers and the other relates to the fair distribution of the quantity that is available. I will make a few suggestions regarding the manner in which the output can be increased. In the first place, I would say that the mills that are already in existence ought not to be allowed to produce so much cloth as they are producing now below 40 counts. In fact, no mill ought to be allowed to produce cloth below 40 counts, otherwise the handlooms will be starved. This was one of the things that was suggested to a Trade Delegation that came from Japan a number of years ago. During the negotiations it was suggested that they ought not to send cloth below 40 counts. At that time 20,000 handloom weavers from one district of Salem were thrown out of employment. They came all the way to Delhi and millions of other handloom weavers in other parts of the Presidency were also thrown out of employment. The only way in which this unemployment can be stopped is by putting an embargo upon such cloth as comes from foreign countries. Fortunately for us such cloth is not now available from Japan and from Manchester we get only the superior cloth. Therefore, the only competitor of the handloom industry is the mill industry in this country. 50 per cent of our needs before the war were being met by the mill industry. 25 per cent cloth was being brought from foreign countries and 25 per cent was being produced by the handlooms of this country. Now, 25 per cent foreign imports have gone and that deficiency has been made up. I would, therefore, suggest that it is just and proper that these 13 million odd weavers of our country must be supported in preference to the 500,000 or less than half a million workers who

are being employed by the mill industry. Greater quantity of yarn should be released for handloom weavers and the textile mills should be prohibited from producing coarser cloth, below 40 counts. That would really go to help the handloom weaver and make more yarn available to him so that he can make a good living.

The next suggestion that I wish to make is that the Government themselves should start spinning factories or mills in this country, spinning as opposed to weaving. Hand spinning no doubt ought to be encouraged, but hand spinning alone would not be able to cope with the needs of the country and hand spun yarn alone would not make us self sufficient in the matter of cloth. So far as the textile mills for whom spindles are allowed are concerned, it must be made a condition precedent that not one yard of yarn they produce in the textile mills should go towards production of cloth in the mills themselves, all the yarn must be handed over to the handloom weavers alone. That condition might certainly be placed by the Government and that can be exacted from those persons to whom permits are granted.

The next point is this. So far it was said that there was not a larger output of yarn in any of these mills on account of strikes, reduction in the number of hours of work and on account of the easy going manner in which workers are taking to this business. That is what I found in a small brochure which was circulated to the Members of the Assembly issued by Mr. Thackersay, the Chairman of the Textile Control Board by way of meeting certain criticisms levelled against the textile mill industry and the manner in which they were making unusually large and abnormal profits and working against the interest of consumers and hand loom weavers. That plea was in refutation of the charges made against them. Now there is a reduction in the production of textiles by 700 million yards and the reason given is that owing to strikes, lessening the hours of work of labourers, and owing to easy going manner in which the workers attend to their work all these factors have led to the reduction in the production of mill goods. In answer to this, I would only say that the only remedy lies in the textile mill industry giving some incentive to the workers also to take a greater interest by giving them a share in the profits which the mill industry earns. At present the mill industry is making abnormally huge profits. Even the so-called small profits against which they complain are also staggering profits according to us. I do not know if all Honourable Members have got this brochure supplied to them. I will refer to the profits which cotton mills have earned for the past few years. In 1939, they distributed a dividend of 10 per cent. In 1940 it was again 10 per cent, in 1941, it was 14 per cent, in 1942, it was 27.03 per cent, in 1943, 26.82 per cent, in 1944, it was 17.88 per cent, on account of the fact that there were strikes and so on. But it will be noticed that the percentage of dividend has steadily increased from 10 per cent to 26 and even 27 per cent. The complaint of textile industry is that it is not earning as much dividend as the tea companies have declared. The percentage of dividend of tea companies rose from 14 per cent to 26 per cent or 25 per cent and in 1944 the tea companies declared a dividend of 22.37 per cent as against cotton mills declaring 17.88 per cent. That is the complaint of the Chairman of the Textile Board, that whereas the tea industry got as much as 22 per cent, he got only 17 per cent in 1944, though in previous years, he got even more than tea industry, 27 against 26. That is the way in which this Chairman of the Textile Board tries to justify the scarcity of cloth and also tries to make out that he has made a lot of sacrifice for the poor of this country. I say, it is time we cry halt and the sooner such kind of gentlemen are removed from posts of responsibility, the better it is for this country. There is absolutely no justification why they should declare a dividend of more than 6 or 7 per cent. What is the present rate of bank interest? The Reserve Bank rate

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 is only about 3 per cent or even 2½ per cent. By all means let the textile industry get double or even treble the bank rate. What is the justification for having 26 per cent and even 27 per cent. That gentleman, the Chairman of the Textile Board sheds crocodile tears for the poor of this country. I would say that it is improper that the textile mill owner should walk away with all the profits that he makes from the consumer, he should at least distribute a portion to the poor workers whose living conditions are most unsatisfactory. In the interest of the larger production of yarn in this country and for the sake of handloom weavers, it is necessary that the Government should take steps to see that the textile workers who are taking time so easy ought to be given some other inducement and they should be made to work longer hours or if this is not possible under the statute, they should at least be induced to work more vigorously and show a greater output during the hours of work that they are working. Government should introduce legislation compelling the textile industrialists to pay a portion of their profits as increased salary to workers. Otherwise there is absolutely no chance of increasing the output of production of cloth or yarn in this country.

The next suggestion that I wish to make is that Government should open depots for sale of whatever yarn is available. The Government should also see that whatever little yarn that is released should reach the ultimate user, the handloom weaver. I can narrate the instance which took place in front of my house in my place, Chittoor. Opposite to my house there is the Textile controller's office. One morning I saw about 20 or 30 women sitting in front of my house. I noticed them when I was just going to Court at eleven of the clock. When I returned home at five o'clock, I saw them sitting still in front of the Textile controller's office. I asked them what the matter was. They said they were all weavers and they had come to obtain permits for yarns for handlooms. That was the first time I came to know that women also had to take permits for handloom yarn. I was told that they came to obtain permits for yarn and then they would sell the yarn to the weavers making a profit over the transaction. Thus you will see that in the matter of distribution of yarn also, there is equal deficiency. I am not casting any aspersion on the fair sex, there may be good women, there may be bad women, just as there are good men and bad men. I am narrating this incident simply to show how even the small quantity of yarn does not reach the actual handloom weaver, but is allowed to be black marketed by the introduction of permits. The suggestion was made by Mr. Thackersay himself to the Government of India that in order to see that the quantity reached the handloom weaver, the Government themselves must open shops wherein they will sell yarn. As early as November 1941, the industry had put forward a scheme by which it was proposed that they should supply yarn in shops managed by Government. The then Member for Commerce and Industries, Sir, A. Ramaswami Mudahar called a conference of provincial government representatives and the scheme was discussed. Neither the central government nor the provincial governments came forward to adopt the above scheme for distribution of yarn in any form. It is not fortunately 'Mudahar' that is in charge of the present Government. Possibly on account of the office which he held then, he held those views. I say times have changed, and it is for the Honourable Member who has taken his place to see that so long as scarcity of yarn continues, Government themselves should open shops for selling yarn or at least entrust the sale of yarn to various co-operative societies and see to it that the co-operative societies only sell yarn to those weavers who become members thereof. Another suggestion that I would like to make is that the Government should see that yarn does not get into the States. Even the small quantity of yarn that is now available

does not reach the handloom weavers, vigorous blackmarketing operations are going on on the borders of Madras province, overnight yarn is transported to the adjacent States of Mysore or Cochin. In order to avoid this smuggling, steps should be taken not to distribute yarn to middlemen who make huge profits, but give them directly to co-operative societies to be distributed only to members of co-operative societies. There ought to be co-operative marketing. This is an unusual time, but I am not going to the length of suggesting that the textile industry as a whole should be taken over by the State. I would have urged that course, had I thought it necessary at the present juncture as in the case of food. I would have suggested that cloth also ought to be managed by the State and that the entire social fabric ought not to be made to depend upon the whims, be they agriculturists or cloth producers like the mills. My Honourable friend Prof Ranga once said that unless you increase the wages of agriculturists, there was going to be great trouble and strike. A strike among agriculturists means killing society. I do not want that we should be placed at the tender mercies of the agriculturists or textile mill owners. It is high time that Government took steps to compel for a short period at least some of the mills in Bombay and other industrial centres to produce only yarn and distribute them to the handloom weavers through the co-operative societies. Let yarn be given only to member of co-operative societies, let all the cloth produced by them be collected, let them be paid only fair wages for their work, let the cloth also be marketed through co-operative societies. This is a very easy matter to do. In my province of Madras they have instituted these co-operative societies and with proper working they are bound to prove a success.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Calcutta Non-Muhammadan Urban)

Even in the case of co-operative societies, the yarn that is made over to co-operative societies goes into the blackmarket in the shape of Government officers themselves.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am not in the know of what takes place in his province. He comes from a province against whose Government he says even government officers do black marketing. That is very unfortunate, if mothers themselves eat away their children there is no help. The serpent also eats its eggs. There is no safeguard against that. You must get rid of a government which behaves in the way you say it does. If the Government is bad, we are helpless. I am taking the case of governments which normally function. I know accusations have been made against particular members of government, even in my own province. I find, Sir, that the co-operative societies are working fairly and every attempt should be made to encourage cooperative concerns for the purpose of proper distribution. With regard to cloth, handloom cloth has become enormously dear, if the price has not gone up five hundred times it has at least gone up five hundred per cent. There is no justification for this because the price of cloth has not been controlled except recently. But before the control was introduced a *dhoti* was available for Rs 8 and after the control you cannot get it for anything less than Rs 13. I do not know why they are giving such enormous sums to these middlemen. Actually there are 24,000 weavers in my district. The weaver never wears a yard of cloth, he just wears a *langoti*; and what he takes is not coffee or tea but from morning to evening, twenty times in the day, he takes rice gruel with a pinch of salt. He lives in a thatched cottage, his wife goes and picks up dry leaves which she uses as fuel. The producer thus lives in abject poverty and his wife and children all work together, and they live under such conditions. It is the middleman who does not put forth any kind of energy who takes away all the profits. I therefore urge that there should be a change and I appeal to Government. I have myself tried to find out a solution for this, the only

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solution that strikes me is to set up co-operative societies or Government should take charge during this critical period, have only spinning mills and not cotton mills, ask the regular mills not to produce cloth up to 40 counts. These are the few suggestions that I will humbly place for the Honourable Member's consideration and acceptance, and I hope that as one of our ablest administrators he will relieve us from this difficulty ere long.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural) Sir My Honourable friend Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang raised this question on the 31st January last year and we thought some progress might have been made in this direction since then but I find that after the lapse of 14 months the position is the same and nothing has been done by Government. The reason, as I said then—and I repeat it now—is that in the matter of textiles it is the industry that rules the Government and Government does not rule the industry. If that position is not reversed there is no hope for the poor people in this country who live from hand to mouth. My Honourable friend Prof. Ranga comes from a province where the handloom industry was once in the most flourishing condition and my province came next, and it so happens that most of the looms are situated in my own constituency. The difficulty is that the handloom industry is growing in importance but is being impoverished from day to day by textile mills. My Honourable friend will have noticed that the Resettlement Directorate is establishing cottage industries everywhere and the handlooms are most popular with the demobilised soldiers because in their homes they can augment their income through this industry. The point of view which Government have always overlooked is that handloom industry is most popular with our villagers, because for eight months in the year they have nothing to do and they can utilise this time on the looms and derive an additional income. We have been pressing here that the income of the people should be increased, we pointed out that the per capita income in this country is only Rs. 64 per annum, and when you count the large number of millionaires it will come to a very insignificant figure. Their purchasing power should be raised not only in their own interest but in the interest of the industry itself because the industry will flourish with greater purchasing power in the hands of these people. So from the economic point of view and in order to find employment for a large number of people I suggest that the Honourable Member in charge should take special care for the development of the handloom industry which is just now at its lowest ebb. The competitors of the textile factories are these handloom weavers but the raw material of these weavers is in the hands of their competitors. This position is economically unsound and politically dangerous. These handloom weavers should be relieved of their troubles and difficulties due to the undue action of their competitors. Let spinning factories be established separately from the weaving factories. At present all these manufacturers always produce yarn, if they produce it for themselves I do not mind. In sugar mills some factories like to have their own farms in order to save the trouble of export; in the same way if these textile mills want to produce yarn for their own use let them do so. But Government should look after the production of yarn for the handloom industry. The present production of cotton in India is about six million bales and we consume four million bales for our mills, the rest being perhaps exported to foreign countries. I think Government should determine how much cotton should be given to these manufacturers out of these six million bales that we produce. Let them have half of it; the remaining three million bales should be given to the handloom weavers, and this production of yarn should not be left to the textile mills. Let them spin and weave their three million bales; but Government should look after these poor weavers and establish spinning factories at different places in order

to provide cheap yarn to these handloom weavers. Sometime ago they started a new mode of distribution among various provinces and different methods were suggested. Most of these were located near the textile factories because they produce the raw material. I suggest that we should see the production of cotton, and we should try to spin it in those very provinces where it is produced, and then it may be distributed in an equitable manner amongst various other provinces. This is one of the most important things which the present Government has to do, and if they succeed—of which I am extremely doubtful, because their scissors are not sharp enough to cut through the pockets of these big textile manufacturers—but if they succeed it will be feather in their cap. Once on the floor of the house, I pointed out to Sir George Schuster that these textile manufacturers are not in his pocket, but he (Sir George Schuster) was in the pocket of textile manufacturers. He retorted that he will have a pair of scissors and will get out of their pocket immediately! I could not retort at that time, but I do it now that the scissors of our Government are not sharp enough to do that. They are there, and they will remain there until the economic conditions are changed in this country. Government have to look after the interests of handloom industry as this is one of the most important problems. In this connection may I point out that whenever we made an attempt to get a licence for establishing spinning industry, the Government have invariably refused to give licences. Charkha was supposed to be good enough for them. I approached the predecessor of my Honourable friend,—Mr. Waugh,—for a licence but he refused to give, and so he left us at the mercy of these textile millowners. If my Honourable friend succeeds in this he shall have afforded great relief to the handloom weavers. Give them their share of cotton and let them spin and weave. Establish separate spinning factories, this should be done either by the Government or they should ask the handloom weavers to do it. In many places they are prepared to establish their own spinning mills. In my constituency, for instance, there are four places where the handloom weavers are prepared to do so provided the Government would issue them licences, or abolish the system of licenses altogether. It seems the Government are embarking on a new scheme of receiving a fee for issuing permits. Well, people in my constituency—at least in four places—are prepared to pay this *pugree* provided the licences are giving to them. I am sure my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, will be able to produce a number of persons in his own provinces who would be prepared to pay this *pugree*.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Don't ask me to produce; I will collect money from them.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I think I used the wrong word for my Honourable friend. However, these people are so much terrorized, and they are so much in agony and trouble, that they are prepared to pay any price.

Then, Sir, I may point out that pressure will be brought to bear on the Honourable Member in a different manner. They are establishing handloom industries in various depots opened by the Resettlement Directorate, but they will not be able to get yarn to run these factories. Very soon they will demand that they should be permitted to have their own factories. I hope that this would be the policy of the Government to help in the production of as much yarn as possible. We have got, as I have already pointed out, six million bales. Why export anything? If we can turn them into yarn in our own country and provide living to our own people, why should we not make the cloth ourselves both by handlooms and mills and export it instead of exporting either cotton or yarn. We do not want to attack the manufacturers. Let them live, but we request them to adopt the policy of 'Live and let Live'. With these few words, Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. P. B. Gole (Berar. Non-Muhammadian) Mr President, I support this motion which has been very ably supported by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar. In fact I entirely endorse every word of what he has said. I do not propose to take much time of the House in dilating upon this subject, but I wish to bring to the notice of the House the grievances that have been felt by weavers in the Central Provinces and Berar. I find that whereas in 1937-38 1,160 million lbs of yarn was being spun in the textile mills—I am quoting from the small leaflet which has been distributed by Mr. Thakersay—in 1945-46 the total output of yarn was 1,614 million lbs. Therefore you will see that whereas before the war 1,100 million lbs. of yarn was being turned out, 1,600 million lbs is being turned out now. I know that in 1937-38, the Nagpur Textile Mills sent yarn to China after supplying the needs of all the weavers in the Central Provinces and Berar. Today I find that all the weavers in this province are finding it extremely difficult to get yarn. I am referring to the co-operative societies in my province. There are Weavers' Co-operative societies and I know that the policy of the Government is to encourage co-operative societies, but I do not understand how these societies find it difficult to obtain yarn. I have received many complaints from these co-operative societies because I happen to have connections with the co-operative movement in C P and Berar. The main complaint is that instead of giving this distribution of yarn to the co-operative societies or to the Registrar of co-operative Societies, the yarn is being distributed through what is called the usual trade channel. Now what happens is that these 'usual trade channels' are accustomed to deal in blackmarketing. These persons are not weavers, they are agents and they distribute yarn to persons who take away the yarn in the black market. The Weavers' Co-operative Societies, although they have been encouraged from time to time, by the Provincial Government, find it extremely difficult to get the yarn. Even the Registrar Co-operative Societies finds it extremely difficult to induce the Textiles Commissioner to hand over the distribution of yarn to the Registrar Co-operative societies. I do not understand why these so called 'usual trade channels' are being preferred to even a senior Government officer like the Registrar, Co-operative Societies. That is what is happening in the Central Provinces and Berar whereas Weavers' Co-operative Societies do not get any yarn, other persons, who are the agents of 'ordinary trade channels' get these bales of yarn and distribute them to some one—we do not know where it goes. The result is that all these weavers—probably the Honourable Member in charge is aware that Nagpur is a great centre where very good cloth is made—find it difficult to get yarn. The Textiles Commissioner is not moving an inch although the Registrar of Co-operative Societies is pressing that yarn should be distributed through him. I want the Honourable Member to give his attention to this question. When the Government themselves want to undertake this distribution work in order that the workers may get a steady supply of yarn for their work, it is no use handing over the distribution of yarn to ordinary trade channels.

I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to another fact. Whereas formerly, for instance last year, Rs. 5 lakhs were provided for as grants for the weaving co-operative societies, this year this grant has been taken away. I would like to know whether the Government want to encourage these weavers' Co-operative Societies or not. If the Government's policy is to encourage these co-operative societies, how is it that this year, particularly, this grant of five lakhs has been taken away. May I ask the Honourable Member to see that the co-operative movement, especially in the case of the weavers, is encouraged because they are serving a very great purpose in rural areas. Therefore I support the motion so ably moved by my

Honourable friend and I hope the Honourable Member in Charge will take care to see that at least the Weavers' Co-operative Societies do not suffer for want of yarn.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley. Non-Muhammadan). Sir, I rise to support the motion. The miserable condition of the people of my province so far as the shortage of cloth and yarn are concerned is not unknown to the Honourable Member in charge. My Honourable friend Mr. Karmarkar complained bitterly yesterday that in his district of Karnatak, there was not a single mill, that in his district there is a large number of handlooms but a very small quantity of yarn was allotted to them. But the House, I am sure will be surprised to learn that in the entire province of Assam there is not a single cloth mill though in every household on the average there are at least two looms working. There are no professional weavers in my province. Every woman or girl in our household weaves her own cloth. In our part of the country the eligibility of a girl for a good bridegroom does not depend on the dowry which her parents are prepared to pay nor on her fashionable dress, her ability to use lipsticks, nor on her bright-coloured flowing sares or her silken pyjamas but it depends on her skill in weaving and the skill with which she can weave her embroidery.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions. Non-Muhammadan Rural). What a happy province!

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: It was indeed so. Pandit Malaviya of revered memory when he went to Assam in the early days of the Non-Co-operation Movement, was struck very much by the uncoloured cloth woven by our women. He said that here at least in Assam *Satyajuga* was still lingering. Mahatma Gandhi paid the same encomium to our women folk. Even Pandit Nehru would have made the same remark about them if he had only cared to look at them. But those looms have stopped working. If my Honourable friend the Member in Charge visits Assam I am afraid he will find instead of the simple women folk of old who wove their own cloth, a different set of women wearing all sorts of fashionable dress of imported silk with lipstick and other feminine adjuncts. I do not know whether he would like to see them in their present condition or as they were before, which evoked the admiration of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Malaviya.

Shri Sri Prakasa: It depends on one's mood!

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Certainly, but I believe that Honourable Member would like our women folk to weave their own cloth and lead a simple life. I would therefore request the Honourable Member to allot a larger quota of yarn to our Province of Assam and also see that mills give us some spindles as soon as possible, so that at any rate the Spinning mills may be started. The austerity of my Honourable friend enable me to hope that our women folk shall get more yarn for weaving their cloth.

Several Honourable Members: The question be put.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari (Member for Industries and Supplies): Sir, I am rather puzzled whether to express my full sympathy with what has been said and leave it at that or to deal with the actual difficulties of the situation. There is a stone wall against which this problem has to struggle.

Honourable Members referred to conflict and competition between the millowners and mill production and the handloom weavers. This problem has not been taken up by me only as a member of the Government. I have been in the midst of weavers for a considerable length of time. From the time, if I may say so, when I was able to understand things I have been among weavers. Reference was made among many other places to Salem, to which

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I belong and where I think the population of handloom weavers is probably the largest in this country. I am able to understand the difficulties of the weavers not only in the general way which legislators are used to, but I have for more than ten years with my own hands given yarn to weavers and got cloth from the weavers and have tried to see them properly employed. Having been intimately associated with this kind of work I know that all that has been said in the House today is true and all that has been said is important.

Once upon a time the competition was between the millowners and the handloom weavers. I wish at this point to say something which Honourable Members do not appear to have realised. Once upon a time this competition was very keen and I was among the few who were actively concerned in getting the mills not to make coarse cloth and getting the handloom weavers to have more yarn. Then was the time when we had foreign cloth and foreign yarn as also indigenous mill production. The handloom weavers were up against an array of very powerful forces then but today the position is somewhat different. There is practically no foreign cloth and there is practically no foreign yarn and with the two wings of this industry—mill production as well as handloom production—taken together, we are still having a shortage of cloth in this country. I know the time when the mills were objects of trouble to the handloom weavers. Today that is not the case it is slightly different. The mills are producing yarn, some of them only yarn and some of them produce both yarn and cloth. The composite mills (that is those which produce both yarn and cloth) are using up practically all the yarn that they produce. When I say that anybody does anything, it should be taken with this qualification practically though not wholly. The composite mills are practically using up all the yarn that they produce in their own mills. There are, however, mills which are producing only yarn. The present situation is that all that yarn which is produced by spinning mills in the southern part of India is not at the disposal of the handloom weavers of that area. The yarn produced in the south

1 P. M. has to feed all the handlooms throughout India, inclusive of the handlooms in the south. The mills in Bombay and Ahmedabad and other places up here are using practically all the yarn that they produce. There is therefore firstly a shortage of cloth for the whole country, and secondly a shortage of yarn for full capacity of the handloom weavers. At present it is not as if the millowners take something to make it difficult for the handloom weaver and which if we set right, everything will go on well. Both together are not able to do what we have to get done for the whole country. That is the position.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Why not spin more yarn?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: When I finished, Hon'ble members will find considerable room for agreement with me even as I have found considerable agreement with what has been said all the time this morning and yesterday evening. The mover of the cut motion confined himself rigorously, and very succinctly he expressed his points about the motion itself, namely the question of the supply of yarn to the handloom weavers. But in the later part of the debate we have launched out into the dividends earned by the millowners and various other topics which are more matters of general observation than having anything to do with the supply of yarn to the handloom weavers. Now, I wish to take not more time than necessary. I wish to deal only with the motion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. It was for the purpose of saying that unless you pay the labourer...

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I do not question the relevancy. But I am explaining my own reasons for not talking on subjects other than the supply of yarn for the handloom weavers, on subjects associated with the motion but very distantly.

The yarn that is available for handlooms today, if India is taken as a whole, is a fourth of the entire production of yarn in the mills of the country. That is the quantity placed at the disposal of the handlooms. It is a little more than a fourth. It is nearer 28 per cent than 25 per cent. About a fourth of the entire mill yarn production of the country is placed at the disposal of the handlooms today. Now, 80 thousand bales—I am giving round figures—each bale weighing 400 lbs, of yarn are sent round every month for the use of the handloom weavers. The distribution is made this way. It is sent to each province according to an allotment arrived at after considerable calculation as to the rights and the wrongs of the position. Each province gets a certain fixed quota—each province and not individual dealers, let it be remembered. 80 thousand bales per month are distributed in this manner among the handloom weavers of India through the various provincial governments and the States. The distribution in the provinces is entirely in the hands of the Provincial Governments.

Much was said about the co-operative societies through which this could be done, or private dealers through which this was being done, and the difficulties arising out of this or that method of distribution. This is entirely left to the Provincial Governments, and I think that it would be difficult for me to deal with the proprieties and the rights and the wrongs of the various measures taken by the various Provincial Governments. Notable reference was made to the method recently attempted to be adopted in Madras for getting the distribution done through co-operative societies. It is not for me to judge it or to take up any part of the time of the House over that matter. I shall content myself with saying that this question of distribution in the Province of yarn to the handloom weavers is within the full discretion of the Provinces, and if Honourable Members will assist in that direction they can get the Provincial Governments to make whatever reforms they think fit in regard to this matter. I need not take up the time of the House with the success or the failure of the various methods. As long as character remains where it does, there are difficulties whether you employ one agency or another agency. I only wish to say that I am not a stranger to the co-operative movement and I know also the difficulties of distribution and co-operative marketing. I also know the black-marketing that will arise in various forms, whatever may be the distribution system. The point is what is ultimately the quantity of yarn that is available. The evils referred to by Honourable Members are all traceable to the shortage of supply perhaps even more than to defects in character. Therefore we must look to production. I said already a fourth of the yarn production or a little more than a fourth, is now being made available for handloom weavers. I know very well that the handloom weavers do not work to full capacity with this yarn.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural) : It is only one-third.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari : I know it may truly be said to be a third or a half. If we make a very conservative calculation, we would have to double this supply. That is to say, instead of supplying 80 thousand bales a month to the handloom weavers we will have to supply an additional 90 thousand bales per month if we wish to do fairly well by the handloom weavers. There are about 2 million looms, in the country. If we wish to give full capacity raw material to the handloom weavers we will have to give 170 thousand and odd bales to them per month. If we do this out of the existing mill yarn available in the country, we would have to double the quantity that is now being distributed. That means, so far as the composite mills are concerned, they would be reduced to less than half of their present weaving production. They will have to go down to nearly 30 or 40 per cent of their present limit of production. That is not easy to do. Many Honourable Members

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 realising this suggest various measures. One suggestion is this: let the State start spinning mills and produce yarn which should be reserved for the sole use of the handloom weavers. A very good suggestion. I think it is a very good suggestion for Provincial Governments. It is also a good suggestion for provinces where there are large numbers of handloom weavers, for taking up some existing spinning mills and nursing them and bringing them up to the proper level. I do not say that the Central Government may not do it. But I say it is a fitter thing for the Provincial Governments to do. The Central Government has to take up the question of steel, the question of coal, the question of transport and many other matters, and I humbly suggest to Honourable Members who are interested in this matter and who are keen upon nationalising various industries that this industry is of a size and quality which should fall more within the competence of the Provincial Governments. But this is by the way.

Without producing more yarn, I was trying to show, that it is not possible to meet the situation satisfactorily. Of course we can take measures to make mills go from fine to coarse, so that they might produce more yarn and save more yarn for distribution to handloom weavers. These are possible measures, I admit and the matter is being very seriously and earnestly examined in my department with the help of all people concerned. I might assure Honourable Members that during the last few weeks I have been doing nothing but thinking on this subject, not because of this motion or this debate but as a matter of ordinary routine work pertaining to the department. This is the intensive work we have taken on hand just now. We wish to find out by what means, either by way of regulation of cloth production in the mills or by going down from fine to coarse or by any other means of pressure, influence or even coercion we could get more yarn out for the handloom weavers. Because I am convinced of one thing,—even though the conviction of Honourable Members is very strong in this matter, I may claim that my conviction is even stronger in this respect,—the immediate short term plan of producing more cloth can only be achieved through the handlooms. The mills will take time to get new machinery for expansion. The mills will take time to influence, and bring round labour to rationalised production but the handloom is ready there. The skill is there. The instrument is there. There is no question of shortage, of labour. The man, and the women and the children, I know are ready and willing to work day and night. There is no trade union which can make the handloom weaver cut down his working hours. His work is not limited to any particular number of hours. I know this, as I have lived among them. All the night, you can hear the fly shuttle moving. You can hear the noise right through the night if you live among them. I know that big production through the handloom is ready to hand if only we give them yarn and you are prepared to pay for it. The problem is how to give them yarn. We know the number of looms available. We know that they can weave so much per day, if we give them yarn. If there is any prospect of increasing cloth production within the year or within the next year, it can only be done I feel through the handloom. The only problem is how to get the yarn to the handloom weaver. The solution of robbing Peter to pay Paul will not do; in the interests of the country Peter and Paul are both the same, in the sense that the total production has to be looked after. That is what I meant when I refer to Peter and Paul. It is not my intention of making any racial or class or other distinction. I have in mind the production of cloth as a whole. If we take away the yarn from the mill, we must reduce the cloth production of the mill to that extent. We must produce a new and make a little more effort to get more yarn free out of the mill by regulating the mill production. These are the ways in which we can deal with the matter.

Now, I would like Honourable Members to think a little further in this direction. Today we are producing, as was pointed out, 16 hundred million pounds of yarn, out of which 12 hundred millions are being used up by the mills themselves and the remainder is being distributed mostly among handlooms, because the "power-looms" may be neglected in this connection as not of much account. The new mills will take time to be set up and to start working.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Can't you allot all the new spindles for the spinning mills?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: That is a long term plan but the previous Government reserved for hand-looms the same proportion, namely, 25 per cent of the output of the new spindleage. The suggestion that the entire expansion may be reserved for hand looms is certainly worth consideration. In the case of expansion of spindleage where they are only spinning, it will certainly be available for handlooms as it is now; but the question of spindleage in composite mills will also have to be taken into consideration in connection with the suggestion just now made. The question will arise as to whether the whole of that new yarn must be made free for handlooms. We shall have to examine more details in that connection but in any case the expansion will take time.

I therefore see no other way except the old proposition, the very old proposition, so far as I am concerned, that so long as the handlooms are linked up to the mills, the trouble will be there. In the old days the trouble was competition. Today the trouble is not competition, want of adequate quantum of production. One depends on the other and the yarn produced now is practically all taken up by the mills themselves and there is no yarn left. So that, you are linked to a partner who uses up all the raw materials.

So the basic thing that we must resort to is hand spinning. Here is the *charka*, here are the two hands. The skill is easily available. You can with these factors produce yarn in abundance throughout the country. A certain amount of regulation and guidance is necessary in order to see that good and sound yarn is produced. That is the only solution which appears to me to be possible so long as foreign yarn is not to come into this country and so long as foreign cloth is not to come into this country. Mathematically I am coming to this, not because I am wedded to a particular method or a particular fact. The facts are there and we can see what the position is. It may be said by the Machine party—"let there be more spinning mills and let them produce at a quicker rate good and sound yarn through the machine". That is a sound proposition I admit but it is a long term plan.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can continue his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (the Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Mr. President: I have received a communication from the Honourable the Education Member in which he says:

"I am very sorry that during the question hour today I left before the final question in my name had been answered. . . . I answered what I thought was my last question and left. I request you to convey my regret to the House for my unintentional absence."

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: Sir, I was setting forth the difficulties in the way of supplying a sufficient quantity of yarn to the handlooms. It is no longer, I said, a case of conflict arising out of competition with either foreign cloth or with mill-cloth. But it is a difficulty arising out of the total

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shortage in the supply of yarn. We will have to struggle against this on all fronts. We must increase the total output of yarn and for that reason we will have to utilise all our resources. Some suggestions have been made and I am having them examined whether we can requisition a certain quota of yarn from even composite mills and place it at the disposal of handloom weavers as a first charge on the production of yarn in the mills. That will not be mere coercion. It is that kind of pressure which may provoke further efforts in re-adjusting production in the mills. It might lead to going from fine to coarse and it might lead, on the whole, to an increased production not only of yarn but of cloth also. It is also possible to adjust a few other things into which I need not go just now by which we might get a little more of yarn from the mills for the sake of handloom weavers. But, as I said, the more effective and immediate step seems to me to tap another source which we have not hitherto been doing, and that is getting the yarn from the cottages in addition to getting it from the mills themselves. There is no competitive conflict now. All our efforts must be to produce a larger amount of yarn. So, the cottage yarn, the handspun yarn, will go to supplement and it is such as we can get straightaway into working operation, if only we put our shoulders to the wheels. It should really be considered—and I take this opportunity of referring to it—a matter of disgrace that anybody who can afford it should wear the mill cloth which of right belongs to the poor man. It should be considered a matter of fashion and a matter of dignity to wear hand-spun and hand-woven cloth. It is only then that we will be able to get more yarn out into the looms from all sources possible. There is ready to hand a simple machine and a form of labour which can give us the cloth that we require if only we make special efforts in these directions. My colleagues and I will make our best endeavour, on the whole, to get more yarn for the handloom weaver and to help him in every way. It is not merely a matter of concern for the handloom weaver and for his occupation but it has become today a concern for the whole nation as to the amount of cloth that we require and which we do not have. Therefore, it is not condescension on our part to help the handloom weaver, it is our own necessity that drives the Government to do everything possible for its production. Therefore, it is necessary that we should make every endeavour to get more cloth out of the handloom and more yarn for the handloom.

Reference has been made in the course of the observations made by the Mover of this cut motion to the export of yarn. He rightly said that we should not export yarn when we are so much short of it ourselves for our own handlooms. But there are always two sides to everything. To what places are we now exporting? Honourable Members may not perhaps know that it is only to Nepal, Afghanistan, some Arabian States on the Persian Gulf that we are exporting a little yarn for the handlooms of those countries. The yarn that we export is about 478 tons or even less. To Nepal we are sending about 320 tons; to Afghanistan 190 tons, and to the Arabian States on the Persian Gulf 28 tons, altogether we send 478 tons of yarn. This is nothing. We must remember that we cannot cut off all connections with our neighbours. We should not look upon this as any serious inroad into our economy. Honourable Members should not mind this insignificant export to our neighbours for the purpose of helping the poor people in those parts of the world.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is there any export of yarn to Burma or Indonesia?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: No; there is no export of yarn to Burma or to Indonesia. (*An Honourable Member:* "There is some smuggling going on.") That is a different matter.

Then, Sir, coming to the actual proposition which the Honourable Mover of this cut motion had in mind, namely, that we should increase our supply

of yarn to the handlooms by a third. That is to say, a third of the yarn output should be given instead of a fourth. It comes to the same thing. We should increase the present supply of 82,000 bales by one-third. I think Government will be able to manage it and I have great pleasure in assuring Honourable Members that an attempt will be made in that direction. The figure given in the cut motion can be reached with a little difficulty; it is not impracticable. But my efforts should be to make a little more than that, to give the handloom weavers more than what is proposed in the cut motion.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder (Salen and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot. Non-Mubamadan Rural): What about the export of cloth to other countries?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Export of cloth is not in the motion and you would not like me to go into that just now. The export of cloth is insignificant, but that is not in the present motion, and I need not take up the time of the House over that. Then reference was made to the actual distribution within the provinces. I have already said that it is entirely within the discretion of provincial governments. I may inform Honourable Members that I have been able to make specific enquiry and ascertain that in provinces where Government employ co-operative societies, the Textile Commissioner directly puts yarn in charge of those co-operative societies. If the provincial governments make legitimate efforts, they can see that the yarn is distributed by co-operative societies. There is no difficulty in this whatsoever. But it is not really mal-distribution that is at the bottom of the trouble. There is a great deal of competition on account of shortage, among the weavers themselves and there is black marketing and wrong practices indulged in. But the solution lies not in just changing the machinery. The solution lies in increasing the amount of yarn that is available when these malpractices will go down. Whether it is the trader who puts a small commission on his yarn or whether it is the co-operative society that distributes it, when there is plenty of supply there will be no difficulty in the position. When there is want of supply, difficulty will be felt whatever be the machinery that we may set up. Regarding the co-operative machinery for distribution within the province, as I have said, we have no objection whatsoever. If in the circumstances of a province, it is felt that co-operative societies might work better, well and good. Honourable Members must convince their respective provincial governments and the people concerned in regard to this matter. I might mention that handloom weavers are on the whole better off now than they were before. There is no control over the price of handloom products. By increase in prices, the handloom weavers have greatly benefitted. It is only recently that in one or two provinces attempts were made to put a price control upon handloom products, but those attempts have not succeeded very much so far as I am aware. On the contrary it has led to increase in prices at which the cloth is available to the people. Restrictions sometimes act in that manner. I do not advocate price control over handloom cloth because it will be very difficult to enforce this regulation and harassment to the handloom weavers would be much more than any advantage that you will be able to get out of it. That is the reason why practically no province has attempted to put a control on price of handloom products. On account of shortage of yarn and on account of increase in the price of handloom products, there is increased competition between one handloom weaver and another, and hence a great deal has been heard about corrupt practices and maldistribution. As I have already said, it is shortage that is at the bottom of it and that will be looked into.

Finally, I may say that I am not behind any Members of this House in my sympathy, and the Government as a whole are in full sympathy with the handloom weavers and feel necessity to improve their condition. In increasing production by handloom weavers lies the only way of immediately improving the cloth supply in this country. I hope with this assurance that we will put forth

[Sri C. Rajagopalachari]

our best efforts to improve the handloom weaver's position, the Honourable Member will withdraw his Motion.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: What about Government establishing in future spinning mills. That is what the Honourable Member was going to say, but he did not say anything definitely. Or in the alternative what about Government distributing as far as possible to various provinces spindles on condition that only spinning mills should be established and that they should set apart a certain portion of their products for handloom weavers.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Everything will be done in that direction as fast as possible. I have no objection whatever to the plan suggested by the Honourable Member. The thing is, it may not have immediate effect in regard to the handloom position. As I have already said the opening of new mills is a definite plan and it will be taken up, but for the present we will have to concentrate on how to get more yarn out of the existing machinery available.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have the Government evolved any scheme to increase hand spinning and production of hand spun yarn?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If the question is with reference to the Central Government, the answer is, no, Sir, except by way of promotion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What do Government propose to do to promote it?

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan) I want to know whether Government are taking any practical steps to meet the situation?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: That is what I have been trying to say that Government are taking practical and immediate steps in order to get more yarn available to handloom weavers.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What are those steps?

The Honourable Sir C. Rajagopalachari: The steps that I referred to are all directly concerned with the production of yarn. I hope Honourable Members will leave the matter to be thrashed out and not merely spun out in a speech.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan) In view of the assurance given by the Honourable Member, I beg leave to withdraw the motion.

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Marking of price and control on cotton cloth produced by the Indian mills

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan) Sir, I move

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Supplies' be reduced by Rs 100."

Sir, I move this cut motion in order to elicit information from Government as to the particular policy adopted in the matter of marking price on mill products of Indian mills in this country. Even in 1945, I raised this issue. I would refer the Honourable Member to the speech I made on that occasion. I do not want to repeat all the arguments I advanced at that time. They will be found on page 1325 of the Debates of 1945. I displayed at that time certain pieces of muslin and long cloth and I then pointed out that for superior stuff, lower value was marked and for inferior stuff higher value was marked. We are not able to understand the mysterious process adopted by the authority which does this in marking the prices. At that time the Member in charge was Sir Azizul Huque and he could not give satisfactory explanation. I thought it was the Textile Commissioner who was doing this, but the Honourable Member denied that it was the Textile Commissioner. He said that it was some other officer

who was responsible for marking of prices. Of course like the irresponsible Executive Councillor that he was, he did not do anything to remove this anomaly. I would again try to impress upon this House the vagaries that are followed in marking prices by displaying a piece of cloth that I have brought with me. On this piece of cloth, it is marked retail price is 7 as. 6 ps. a yard; but as soon as it is printed—I do not know whether the colour is fast—the retail price marked is Rs. 1-14-0. The retail price of a coloured piece does not bear any comparison to the retail price of the same stuff when it is not coloured. I cannot understand how one and the same stuff can become so expensive when it is coloured. What are the factors which go to contribute for the sudden jump in prices, I leave it to Honourable Members to find out. I have particularly got this specimen to impress upon the Honourable Member in charge that prices should range on a certain basis and should rest on certain principles. For printing this kind of cloth, surely it would not cost more than two or three annas per yard and after being coloured, it should be in the neighbourhood of 10 annas per yard. Instead of that, it is marked as Rs. 1-14-0. The public in this country has been compelled to buy this stuff at such a heavy price. It is more a black market price than the real price, even according to their own marking even according to their own valuation as the cloth was taken out of the mill before being printed. On production it is valued at Rs. 0-7-6 but after printing its price is Rs. 1-14-0. I will not give other samples.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce) Is it hand printing or machine printing?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: As a millowner the Honourable Member should know it, I am a layman and cannot answer that.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: I think it is printed outside.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: That is something with which I am not concerned, I am only asking the Honourable Member to see whether this is justifiable. In that debate also I pointed out that certain mills produced long cloth which was priced at as 13 a yard; and this was of definitely better quality than long-cloth produced by some other mills and priced at Rs. 1-8-0. This discrepancy exists even now. To our surprise the Honourable Member's predecessor Sir Azizul Huque—an irresponsible Member of the Executive Council—took no notice of the debate and the speeches made. But I hope and trust that the present Government with different ideals will consider feelings in the country and mend matters immediately. When my Honourable friend Mr. Haroon spoke on the subject Sir Azizul Huque said

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But nothing was perhaps done after that. I will next deal with the method of control. We find that every year and every month the production is coming down; at least we are asked to use less cloth. The production is shrinking, or the quota given to provinces is shrinking, for reasons best known to the administration. What I want to say is that Government have not been able to compel these mills to have double or triple shift to meet the needs of the country. In the alternative Government should have imported cloth from outside, as they are importing foodgrains. Of course food is the first necessity but cloth comes next; and so I should like to know the reasons why it has not been imported so long from foreign countries like America or other places which have surplus stocks. I do not know which countries have got this surplus but the Honourable Member should know and tell this House what the position is in other parts of the world. I understand from quotations received from America by some merchants who want to import American goods that America has got surplus cloth which they can ship to this country if special facilities are given to them. One point of course is that while importing we must look to the prices and see how they compare with the indigenous prices.

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

Much has been said about black markets and I will not dilate on that subject, but I must say that these millowners also have found out methods to show to Government only a certain amount of production and perhaps hold up the rest in order to dispose of it in some other manner. I do not know what methods of control are followed by Government but I should like to know how Government can be sure that the entire production of the mills is tendered to Government.

As regards export of cotton clothing, although a very small amount has been exported I must say that in our present conditions we cannot afford to export cotton clothing as we cannot export foodgrains. I should like to know from Government whether certain mills were allowed to make exports to other countries and a certain quota was given to them for export to the Persian Gulf and other places, and whether the interests of the country were considered and the circumstances in which such permission to export was given. It is particularly important in view of the fact that our own cloth quota is being reduced every day, thus making the life of the people more or less impossible. In Delhi the individual quota of 36 yards per year has been reduced to 12 yards and in my own province of Bihar from 24 yards in 1945-46 it has come down to 18 yards. I should like to know from the Honourable Member whether these factors were taken into consideration and whether he can give an assurance that he will be able to adjust the price to production in a manner which will meet the needs of the people of the country. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Cut motions moved.

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

As the time limit expires at 3-15 p.m. I will call upon the Government Member to intervene at this stage. It will not be by way of reply but the House will be in possession of facts from the point of view of Government. If there is time left the debates may be proceeded with.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Sir, with regard to the wrong marking of prices I am sorry to say that it is impossible for me to reply to the specific case that has been referred to in the course of the Honourable Member's speech, unless the matter is placed in my hands more specifically and with some time to make inquiries. It is not possible for a Member of Government to say why a particular piece is marked wrongly in pursuance of a policy for which he is responsible. I accept responsibility for errors of the administration but I cannot answer in any satisfactory manner with reference to a particular case or a particular error. The policy is that prices should be controlled and prices should be marked on the pieces, there are various schedules and rules governing the matter and there are officers entrusted with the work and a prescribed procedure. If any errors like this are pointed out in time so that some inquiries may be made I shall be only too glad to look into the matter and give satisfaction. The gist of the matter is this. The complaint is that this hand-printed piece is marked at too high a price. If that is to be enquired into I have got to get all the details about it, and I have to get explanation of all the persons who are responsible for it before I can venture to give any verdict on the matter.

But I assert that the rules that have been made are good enough for fixing fair prices and the procedure prescribed in good enough. Infringements should be looked into when they are pointed out, but we cannot simply assume that because this particular piece of cloth rouses indignation in the mind, of the Honourable the Mover, all cloth is dealt with like this. It is quite wrong to generalise from this case.

As regards the policy, without this price-fixing we cannot simply get on at all, and the people would have much more trouble than if we dropped these methods. The thing has of course to be done properly, and for that reason I would ask the Honourable the Mover and other Honourable Members to bring such matters to the notice of the administration.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I have been bringing these matters to the notice of the Honourable Member's Department since 1955.

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: I am very sorry but if this piece is as old as that I disclaim all responsibility.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: This piece is new.

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: Restricting ourselves to matters on which I can give reasonable explanation. I have said that matters of this kind should be brought to the notice of this Department, and not merely made a subject matter of comment on the policy, unless of course it is the intention of the Honourable Member to see that there should be no marking on pieces.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It is not my intention. I have pointed out about the way in which these pieces are marked; there seems to be something wrong there.

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: As I have said even a single case has to be looked into before coming to a verdict. But one case will not prove that the machinery is bad.

With regard to export policy, though it is not relevant to the cut motion itself, it is important enough for me to say a word about it. We are exercising the most stringent attitude in regard to the export of cloth. I may assure Honourable Members that it is with very great unwillingness and after very severe examination that we allow the very small quantity of export that has been kept up even during these difficult years. Just as even when we are on ration and we do not get sufficient rice from the bazaar in existing conditions, when a visitor comes we do not turn him out, in the same manner with all our difficulties we cannot cut ourselves off from neighbouring countries who are in great difficulty. They send their Missions, representatives and high-placed officials for a quota from here and there. In some cases Honourable Members themselves press that small quotas may be allowed under circumstances connected with any particular case. We cannot entirely get rid of all exports, but I can assure my Honourable friends that it is only after most stringent examination that any such proposal is entertained, and I am particularly hard upon all these exceptional cases and I am trying to reduce them as much as possible. But there are many departments concerned in such matter. There is a department pressing for the claims of foreign countries and neighbourly relations. The Commerce Department has its own outlook in the matter. It must keep its contacts and trade connections with certain countries which they cannot give up on account of bad conditions now. A number of considerations have to be taken into account and some time the Industries and Supply Department has to yield, but I can assure this House that so far as my Department is concerned, they are all out against exports. Wherever it is possible we object to exports.

I do not think I have anything more to say, but every effort will be made to make the administration as easy as possible. We hope when one day we get our production to the right dimensions, all these difficulties will disappear and we need not then depend upon very careful marking and we may leave it to the buyer and the seller to fix the price as they want.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Why can't we increase our production?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: That is attempted; that has been the subject of very anxious consideration and we are trying to do it. Double shift is going on in most cases, and treble shift is being considered.

I may also take the House into confidence that we propose to have double and treble shifts at least in respect of yarn so that we may have more yarn and more hand-loom cloth. All these aspects of the matter are being looked into and once again I assure the House that everything possible will be done.

Mr. Fadial Lallubhai: Sir, the example given by my Honourable friend Mr. Nauman, is certainly a serious one. The price of cloth was As. -7/6 per yard when the cloth was grey and when the cloth was printed, it was 1/14/- a yard. I understand certain quotas were given to hand-printers in Bombay, Ahmedabad and other places, and I also understand that these hand-printers instead of printing by hand, they printed on small machines. What they did was this that they printed *kacha* colour which would fade and go down in water or steam and ruin the prestige of Indian prints. It is possible that this machine-printed cloth by hand printers may have been given at a high price, otherwise it is impossible that a piece of cloth valued at -7/6 would be sold at 1/14/-. I would request that the Government should go deep into this matter, especially into the case which has been pointed out by my Honourable friend, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, and if there is any misuse on the part of hand-printers they ought to be punished because it ruins the prestige of Indian prints. I understand extra quotas were being given and if that extra quota is being used, it should be reconsidered.

Further my Honourable friend was talking about holding out production. I can assure him that the entire production by the mills has got to be given over to the Textile Commissioner for distribution. There is no question of mills not giving over their entire production, but the difficulty is that the production has gone down considerably during the last year. It has gone down by 25 per cent and I must say that this House has to thank itself for that because they did not listen to my advice last year. I said that the Textile industry ought to be given some time to reorganize so that we may have three shifts where it is possible, but the nine hour day was reduced to eight hours. Although the Government of India wanted to exempt the textiles industry but in the Bill which was passed it was not agreed to. I said that the Textiles industry should be given exemption because we were passing through abnormal times and it was very necessary to reorganize the industry. At that time I said that whatever exemption you give, you ought to do it here but if you leave it to the provinces they will dare not do it. My prophesy has come true and I may tell you that even if the Provincial Governments try now they will not be able to come back to nine hour day. But I must say that it is possible to rationalize the industry and if the Government tries they can have in many centres three shifts in which case we can produce more yarn. On the other cut motion, the Honourable the Industries Member said that he would like to give more yarn to the handlooms. I feel that not only what he desires will be obtained but if he perseveres, as I know he is persevering day and night these days, he will be able to get more yarn and more cloth with the co-operation of industrialists, labour and technicians. I am sure in a few months time India can expect more cloth and yarn production due to the hard work of the Honourable the Industries Member.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Sir, there is just a point on which I should like to make a brief statement in reply. The mover of this cut motion suggested that we might import cloth and yarn from outside. There is very little chance of this. In fact there is no chance of our getting any textiles from abroad, whether it is good or bad. Even if there were some chance, Honourable Members should consider very seriously whether it is a wise plan. It may be that we are having a shortage but as long as we are able somehow to get on with the quantity of cloth that is produced in this country I think it would be wise not to go back to the old tendency of importing foreign cloth.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: We are not able to get on: that is the trouble.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: It is a matter of degree, Sir. In the case of cloth the fact is there, that we are getting on. The demand is there, I admit. The misery is there, I admit. But we are getting on, thanks

to the sun under which we live, for we can bear a lot of shortage in respect of cloth, if only we make up our minds rather than hand over the prosperity of our country once again to the tender mercies of foreign exploiters.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: That is no justification.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member tell us how it is that there is this sudden difficulty, a difficulty that was not experienced before in regard to this matter.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: It is due to this. Possibly we, all of us, do not have all the facts before us. The picture would be slightly different if we had all the facts. When we have just reached sufficiency, even a little shortage is felt very acutely. From 4,500 million yards we have come down to 4,000 million yards and that creates all this difficulty. In the old days we were less in population. Now every year we are increasing by about four millions. It should be remembered also that our standards are higher now. In the old days a large fraction of our people did not wear adequate cloth, now a much larger fraction of our people are wearing adequate cloth and wish to wear adequate cloth. In the old days the cloth that was produced in the country was ample for the city and small-town dwellers, because the villagers did not want much cloth. But today if we keep our eyes open when we go round we find everybody of every rank in life wearing more dress than they used to do before. Therefore the average demand, has gone up and the position has become more difficult. That, in my opinion, is the reason for this difficulty. Figures point out that there is a slight fall but that slight fall is not enough to explain all our troubles. The rise in the standard of living is the real explanation of the difficulty that we experience.

Then there is a further thing. During the war the output was very great and machinery was worked to death and there was no proper replacement. All these difficulties have to be dealt with and they are a matter of time.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Sir, In view of the assurances given by the Honourable Member I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

DEMAND No. 11—CABINET

Necessities of effecting General Economy in the Expenditure of various Departments

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The object of this cut motion has been mentioned as "to discuss the necessity of effecting general economy in the expenditure of the various departments."

Earlier when in the course of the general discussion of the Budget this point was raised, the Honourable the Finance Member was very emphatic in the expression of his conviction that there is very great scope for effecting economy in the expenditure which is at present incurred. It is very conventional to say that there has been extravagant expenditure in so far as the Government of India is concerned.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, may I know what member of the Government is in charge of this cut?

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Looking at the cut as a whole it seems to me that the whole Cabinet is responsible, as it is a cut for the reduction in the expenditure of the Cabinet.

Shri Sri Prakasa: But still somebody's head has to be cut.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: To continue the thread of what I was saying it is also conventional to say in justification of the huge expenditure now being incurred by the Government of India, that the various departments are expanding, that the functions of the state though they started originally with the policing of the area under their control, now in civilised times, have extended and indeed the Government of India has begun to look after the good of the people as a whole and has embarked on new schemes involving direct expenditure. I will not look at this question in the brief time at my disposal from a mere superficial point of view by looking at the expenditure which was there before the war, by looking at the expenditure which has resulted as a result of the war and by making a comparison of the present expenditure and the past expenditure and suggesting that there should be retrenchment and economy only in that respect. If we have to take a whole view of the situation under the present circumstances I think we should judge ourselves as being on the threshold of achieving a new status namely a status of sovereignty. In times past we were a subject nation subject to the economic control of a foreign nation and therefore our budget structure, our expenditure structure, our revenue structure, all these were influenced by considerations extraneous to the popular good. If only we were to cast a glance at what has happened, the present administration started as an administration principally and primarily for maintaining law and order. Of late it has launched on schemes which might come under the category of the general good of the people. Now that we are analysing the present economic position and making proposals for introducing economy, we have to pay attention to both these aspects and while doing so, with all respect I have to suggest that there should be a double way of approach to the subject, one of them being a long term view and the other a short term view. The long term view would involve our considering what is likely to be our revenue structure, our expenditure structure during the next five or ten years. I will be told naturally that at this stage our present constitutional position is hanging in a balance and therefore in anticipation of what our revenues might be or what our expenditure might be and we would make an uncertain sort of judgment. But as we are considering the matter at the moment and giving a little serious attention to it, I should myself be tempted to take also a long term view. Assuming for our present purpose that the present arrangements may continue, if these arrangements are disturbed, those who will be in charge of the administration in the disturbed arrangement will take care to make an assessment of facts as they exist at that time. But at the present moment I should suggest that we should also have a long term view of what our economy should be like and when we take that view I should respectfully invite the attention of the House to what has been our revenue and expenditure structures in the past. Of course that past is not likely to be the sole guide to us in judging of the future as a whole. I see, making a few broad references, that twenty years ago, that is in 1927 our total expenditure stood somewhere near about 98 and odd crores. Then it continued like that with more or less slight changes till we came to the war. And the war has disturbed our economy. The total expenditure as it stood in 1939 was somewhere about 98 and odd crores. It went up to 107 crores in the first year of the war, to 120 crores the next year, to 260 crores the next year and in the last two years it went up to the abnormal figures of 434 and 484 crores. As I said in my earlier observations in the course of the general discussion on the Budget, the expenditure in the current year has not reduced itself to the proportions to which we expected it to reduce itself.

Reviewing the revenue structure during a similar period, twenty years ago the total net revenue was 93 crores. Passing over a period of fifteen years the revenue dwindled to 70 crores and odd and stood somewhere between a little above 70 and 93 crores. Then the war disturbed our economies. Taxes were piled upon taxes. We know to our cost that the additional deficit incurred

during the last nine years amounts to the fabulous sum of 1285 crores—a heavy burden upon the revenue resources of the country. While judging of the future for the next five years we have to have a broad estimate of what our definite revenues are with a margin of error, and so shape our expenditure from now on so as to make it fall reasonably within the revenues that can reasonably be expected. We know how the Honourable Member's present taxation proposals have greatly disturbed many interests in the country. I shall not speak on the merits of the proposal at the present moment. But I should certainly say this that if at the present moment Government were in a position to recast their expenditure in such a manner as not to have necessarily to increase the revenues by having recourse to fresh taxation of a contentious nature, it would certainly have meant very well for us, because from now onwards we are in a position to think how to meet our expenditure from our revenue in a better manner than it was permitted to us in the past. Looking at the question from that point of view and especially inviting our own attention to the fact that during the last 20 years the only surplus years were about three or four—almost all of them, even prior to the war, were deficit budget years—taking into consideration all these factors, it is certainly up to us to so arrange our expenditure for this year and also for the succeeding years as not to disturb the economy of the country very greatly. Certainly we shall have to take steps to increase the expenditure in matters which absolutely make it necessary to increase our expenditure. We may also find it necessary to impose fresh taxation where the community concerned is strong to bear it. And we shall have to expand our economy. It is up to us to consider what has happened in the past, what are our present conditions, and what may reasonably be expected to happen in the near future. Judging from that point of view, Sir, one or two facts stand foremost in our present position. Firstly, as I said, there is our recurring deficit, secondly our increasing public debt. As figures show, the public debt as it will stand at the end of the present year will be to the tune of about Rs. 1,886 crores—an increase of Rs. 959 crores, as figures stood prior to the war. Thirdly, our increasing responsibilities. There is one little paragraph devoted in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Budget to what the expenses of the Defence Department may stand like. His Majesty's Government and this Government have agreed, it is pointed out there, that hereafter the services of troops lent to the particular Government will be paid for by the Government which utilises them. As I visualize things, a little after about the end of this year when the British Government has promised in all solemnity that the British would quit India, I am afraid our defence responsibilities would increase far more than we could imagine now, and every soldier that we may invite for a temporary period will cost us greatly. Judging the question from that point of view I am afraid our responsibilities for defence expenditure will be far more than what we are likely to think about.

The question is this. In our present position we find ourselves surrounded by the increasing personnel of the administration. I will not tease the courtesy of this House by going into very great details. There have been figures worked out in every Department. We find as I had the occasion to observe in the course of the general discussion of the budget, that things have grown worse, especially after the end of the war, than before or during the war. Looking at the question in that perspective, taking both a long-range and a short-range view, there are certain suggestions that come uppermost in one's mind while judging of these things, namely the economies to be introduced now and in the immediate future. One would obviously be the decrease in the personnel. And there one has to face the objection that if you are growing into a free nation you will necessarily have to expand your personnel. For instance in the External Affairs Department you will have to increase the number of Ambassadors. Certainly, yes. We shall expand our Departments wherever there is absolute necessity. And we shall curtail our Departments where they have expanded beyond all reasonable necessity.

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar]

The second way is one which Government are already thinking of taking, and that is to Indianise the services as much as possible and thus reduce the expenditure which is involved in inviting personnel from outside for serving us. That would also incidentally, if I might mention, increase our own efficiency. There is a fallacy,—and I am not speaking disrespectfully of any experts whom you might have invited—that after all is said and done, whatever the exploitation in the process of history may have been, the British Civil Service has justified its own existence and has rendered very nice service by the country. That, Sir, in my opinion is a fallacy. And this process of Indianisation will not only involve a reduction in expenditure but will also increase the efficiency of our services.

While on that point I would also briefly refer to the departmental tiers. When I first looked into the demands for grants last year and saw the tiers of officers I was reminded of the South Indian temples. The Virupaksha temple at Hampi for example has nine tiers one above the other. When I looked at the demands for grants I saw all types of officers, research Officers, Special Officers, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Controllers, Supervisors and Superintendents and so on. There is no end to this terminology. There seems to be some charm in the nomenclature. I would not quarrel if you call a chaprassi a Controller-General. There is no quarrel about the name. But if a Controller has to be paid Rs. 2,000 then I would certainly quarrel. These tiers have increased especially during the war. I would invite the attention of the House, without going into details, to the series of officers, for instance, in the Information and Broadcasting Department or the Industries and Supplies Department, or I might well with liberty say take a dip into any of the Departments and you will find officers over officers, possibly with some little purpose but largely without any purpose. That, Sir, should be simplified as much as could be simplified.

Another useful way of reducing expenditure is this. My honourable friend Mr. Reddhar has placed a statement in my hands giving the new appointments in reply to a question of his which he put this morning. That will show that even last year has been an unnecessary increase in the number of officers. On the point of this personnel I think it would be extremely useful if a rational analysis were to be undertaken in respect of each department. Such a thing was done by the Government of India with regard to the Postal Department; they calculated exactly how much time would be required for a clerk to give five envelopes when a customer comes for them. I would not suggest such a harsh treatment. If even half the care is exercised I should think that that would cut down the expenditure of Government a great deal.

I will enter on the discussion of a little contentious measure because I feel that some Honourable Members of this House may not agree with me. I should certainly understand a very liberal minded but wealthy man parting with his amounts in charity. But I find myself difficult to agree with proposals for handing over large amounts to the Provinces as grants in a year during which the only correct description of our financial position would be 'bankruptcy'.

Now under those circumstances, whether it would be wisdom to spend crores and crores of rupees over schemes of development undertaken by the provinces is a question on which I hold strong opinions and my opinion is this, that at the present moment it would be wiser to go slower.

Those are the different ways in which one can go into the whole question of introducing economy. May I respectfully ask, Sir, how much more time is available to me?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has spoken for 15 minutes. As a Mover, he is entitled to 20.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: I will only give one instance by way of illustration. I could not resist the temptation lately of going into the details of one of the departments. What I am going to say is intended to serve only as an illustration. The same is true of almost every other department. I mention as an instance the Information and Broadcasting Department. If any one cares to look into the details, he will find that it began in a very humble manner. Formerly the officer in charge of it was called the Controller. Not being content with that name, the Government of India made him Director General and if one were to go into the lists of officers he will find that after the Controller became the Director General, he required three Deputy Directors General and other subordinates also. Now, we find that a department which started with very humble beginnings has got three Deputy Directors General, one Director of Administration, an Assistant Director of Administration, an officer on special duty and two Superintendents. I am only summarising the number of officers in order not to tease the patience of the House. In addition there is also a Deputy Director General for Programmes, an officer on special duty and a Director of Programmes, all of them undoubtedly drawing high salaries.

Now, there is another organisation, as part of the Broadcasting Department and that is the Central News Organisation. It started with very humble beginnings. It originally started with a news editor and three sub-editors. Now, there is one Chief Editor. This organisation which started in the first instance with one News Editor and three sub-editors now has one Chief Editor, seven News Editors, 32 Assistant News Editors and Sub-Editors. In addition there are a special representative and two reporters. This is about the Central News Organisation.

Here I have a local complaint to make and that is that in spite of the whole of this staff the department finds it very difficult to spare an additional 15 minutes to the Kannada language which is spoken at the present moment by lakhs and lakhs of people. This is just as an aside.

I should like to point out that whatever artificial importance, English may have had in the past, it should at least cease now but we find to our surprise that a gentleman or a gentle woman, whoever it might be, if he or she has a good voice for the microphone gets a post and just for announcing in English and doing nothing else, they are getting Rs 700 whereas a poor Indian Announcer with similar qualifications is receiving not more than Rs 150 for corresponding service. That is the thing to which I want to draw attention.

I am also staggered, I am speaking subject to correction on this point, to see—and I find it very difficult to bring myself to believe—that there are not less than 100 gazetted officers of the Central News Organisation. What all of them are doing I am really at a loss to know.

You will also be surprised at another thing. If the same thing happened in the Legislative Assembly Department, you, Sir, would immediately pounce upon it and stop it but what do we find in the All India Radio. There are three different reference units with a number of different officers for the different kinds of work to be done. They are occupying three different rooms in the same place. If all these units could be amalgamated and if one Central reference unit could be established, it would result in considerable economy of time and money. All these things could certainly be reorganised. I will not go into further details of this organisation. The same type of remarks might be multiplied in the case of other departments but I shall not add to the misery by doing so. I think it will be better to repeat the formula which Gautama Buddha laid down when dying. He said 'Pursue thy salvation with diligence'. I should say to the Government of India that the salvation of the Government of India lies in the economy that they might practise.

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar]

I was myself struck with a very little thing and I was very much stunned myself to hear it. There are a lot of little things that happen. I was told, I am speaking subject to correction—something about a highly placed officer of a department of the Government of India. I could even mention the name of the officer concerned. He wanted a radio at the expense of the Government exchequer and he thought of getting one and debiting it to the Government accounts. Now, if it was given out that a radio was going to be purchased, the Audit Department would pounce down upon that department. The audit officer might say—why do you want a radio when your department has nothing to do with radio listening. Now, a new name was invented for the purpose and they called it—high frequency electro magnetic set and that was how it was

of the Government of India. If such things could happen I should respectfully say that we are living in an atmosphere of very great extravagance. One should expect better things to happen in the Government of India. The Honourable the Finance Member has already said that there is going to be an inquiry into the question of economy and I hope that Government will take note of all the new expenditure entered in the Budget for next year. They should hold up all unnecessary expenditure until the committee goes into the matter and the money may be spent afterwards if necessary. If officers are appointed beforehand they will hold on and it will be difficult to dislodge them afterwards. I suggest one remedy. When an office falls vacant, do not fill up that office again. I should certainly request that this matter be placed before the Standing Finance Committee and before the Public Accounts Committee and until their report is received, I should certainly suggest that no new expenditure should be permitted unless it is absolutely necessary.

Mr. President: 'ut motion moved.

'That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100''

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member) I must compliment my Honourable friend on his speech. He has placed the matter in a very reasonable and very forceful manner. As I said in my Budget speech, the Government of India are seriously perturbed over the expenditure of the Government. I have already proposed the appointment of a committee to examine this problem and I have said that it is my intention that that committee should consist of members of the Central Legislature as well. I can assure the Honourable Members of this House that we are as anxious as anyone of them to curtail all unnecessary expenditure. My Honourable friend has given some figures of the budgetary position in the past and of our income and of our expenditure. All that I need say is that I hope we will not go back to the past. With development and improvement, both our income and expenditure must increase. What we have got to see is that there is no wasteful expenditure incurred by the Government of India. I cannot agree with him that we should cut down any necessary expenditure which will benefit the country in some form or other. My Honourable friend has stated that if our expenditure had been less, there would have been no need to raise any more money. I think we should not look at this problem in that light. The more money we will have the better improvements we will be able to carry out for the good of the peoples of this country. Therefore, I should not look at this problem merely from this point of view that we should not get any fresh money for our revenues. We must get as much money as we can without injuring the economy of the country.

My Honourable friend has laid great emphasis on the increase in the personnel in the various Departments of the Government of India. This is one of the war-time legacies and all that I need say is that the Government is fully aware of the great increase that has taken place and that also will be one of the matters for the Committee to examine.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend has not looked with favour on the grants that have been provided for development purposes to be given to the provinces. I am afraid I cannot agree with him on that point. Any money that is spent on the development of the country—social or economic—is money well spent, and I would not grudge giving any amount of money to the provinces for developing their areas so as to benefit the population of those areas.

My Honourable friend has given some details about one particular Department. I do not think I need go into that. There is one proposal that he has made and that is that no new expenditure should be incurred till the Committee has had an opportunity of examining the position. I cannot accept the proposition that no new expenditure should be incurred, but I think one can say that no new expenditure which is not necessary should be incurred till such time as the Committee has had an opportunity of examining the position of the various Departments of the Government of India. And in this respect, I think, those of the Honourable Members who are members of the Standing Finance Committee would bear me out that I have always given them the freest hand to express their views and give their opinion with regard to every item of expenditure that is placed before the Standing Finance Committee. I have never tried to influence them in any way that they must give their approval to certain items of expenditure which are placed before the Committee. I want to give as much freedom to the Standing Finance Committee with regard to this matter as it is possible for me to do, and it will be my endeavour, as far as possible, to carry out the wishes of the Members of the Standing Finance Committee, who are the representatives of this Honourable House. Sir, as I said at the beginning, we are all anxious for economy in the expenditure of the Government of India and I am very hopeful that the Economy Committee, which we propose to appoint, will be able to give some very valuable suggestions and make some very useful recommendations to the Government for reducing unnecessary expenditure in the various Departments of the Government of India.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will this Committee add to the expenditure of the Government?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: That will depend on the Honourable Members themselves.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: With your permission, Sir, I beg to withdraw my motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I beg to move

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 55—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

Policy in regard to Controls of Articles other than Food

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I beg to move

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Supplies' be reduced by Rs 100."

Sir, before the war began, I was all for more and more controls, because I was then under the impression that left to Government many things would come to be managed properly, efficiently and in the public interest. But as the war has gone on and now that the war has been over, I am coming to feel that the less work you leave to Government, so far as these controls are concerned, the better it will be. We have learnt one thing as a result of this war and that is how weak, inefficient and undependable are generally these public functionaries in the employment of the Government, especially when they happen to hold key positions and are in charge of the distribution of commodities and services which are in short supply. We are of the opinion that my Honourable friend Mr. Karmarkar will find greater satisfaction in regard to my plea for economy if we can only get rid of the maximum number of controls.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga] that we are suffering from today. For every rupee that we spend publicly through the public exchequer on the administration of these controls, it shows that the public either as consumers or as producers or even as middlemen are spending or losing easily Rs 10. Because of these controls, whether in the shape of black markets or too high prices or too high margins of profits and commissions by these various cadres of middlemen, more money is being wasted by Government upon these various officers and the hirelings who are associated with them. One would have excused it if these controls had come to an end six months after the war was over. The fever of controls seems to have caught up the imagination not only of the Central Government but also of the provincial governments with the result that every day new controls are being instituted and people are being persecuted. I wish to give one or two examples from my own province. Some merchants in my province took it into their head to make some money in regard to what is known as sun-hemp seeds which are very badly needed by the peasants for production of cattle fodder. One of the merchants seem to have told some Madras official that the price at Rs 30 per bag was too high. Government really thought the price was high. The gentlemen who were in charge of controls found another opportunity to hold people to ransom and they suddenly decided to bring sun-hemp under control just two or three weeks before the season actually came upon the peasants to sow the seeds. Though the sun-hemp was controlled at Rs 30 per bag, at that time it was selling at Rs. 35 in the market, immediately the stuff went out of the market, one never knew where, the peasants could not get at the stock, they had no information as to where the stocks were hidden, nor were the Government able to find out what total quantity of stocks were available, but all the same the peasants needed sun-hemp seeds for sowing and they had to purchase them at prices ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs 120 per bag, though nominally it was supposed to sell at Rs 30 or Rs 35 per bag at the control rate. What is more even after getting the sun-hemp seeds at the black market rates, the poor peasants had to tip the policemen in order to smuggle away the seeds to their homes. You can very well imagine the misery of the peasants. The same thing happened in the case of cotton seeds. That is also a vital necessity for cattle fodder. Even in case of cotton seeds the peasants had to pay to the Controller and other hirelings, under him. Take the case of matches kerosene, jaggery, sugar and various other commodities, in regard to all these things, there is so much corruption.

Only this morning my Honourable friend the Member for Industries and Supplies told us that there is real shortage in total yarn production in this country and he was asking us to bear with the Government because the standard of living of the people has gone up and therefore their expectations have gone up and therefore there is real shortage, effective shortage in the supply of yarn and that is why all this clamour and dissatisfaction and so on. It may be so. During the war, there was much more cloth and yarn. All that were being diverted away from general consumption for defence purposes. All that now must be available to the people. The same machinery, the same mills are still working even according to the report of Mr. Thackeray, it was proved by one of my Honourable friends that production is much greater now, and in spite of that, there is shortage. The wonder of it is that people are not going naked without clothing, they are having all the cloth they want, they are getting all these controlled commodities. The only trouble is there is maldistribution. Those who have got plenty of money are able to get more and more, as much as they want and those who have no money are going without a proper supply and any one who gets any sort of supply, adequate or inadequate is obliged to pay all these officers and the various adjutants a very heavy price by way of corruption. It all comes to this. The stuff is there, it is being distributed, but it is being ill distributed. That is complaint number one. Next in the process of this distribution, the control officers and

the various departments associated with them and all the various middlemen and all these people are getting their ill earned profits. That is one of the reasons why I want these controls should go. Then the question arises do we want all these controls to go or do we want only some controls to go and some to remain? I would like to join my Honourable friend Babu Ram Narayan Singh and say that all controls should go. The difficulty is this 'If you do not have controls you experience certain difficulties, when you have controls, you experience certain other difficulties, when you think of giving up these controls, their fears go up by leaps and bounds, and sometimes we are also told that once these controls have gone, the things are not available at all anywhere. Recently we experienced difficulty in the case of cotton seeds and some other commodities which have gone out of control. I am also assured by certain people that prices have gone down by 20 to 50 per cent. and the stuff is available in the market

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division. Non-Muhammadian Rural) The price of groundnut has gone up by 30 per cent in one day.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In Bombay, everything is peculiar, your Stock exchange manipulates things in any way they like.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Not only with regard to groundnut but of various other commodities, prices have gone up.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Your merchants are capable of mischief. Therefore it is not so easy for me to suggest that Government should remove control over food. I dare not suggest that I shudder to think what will happen if control over food is removed. I am afraid of the consequences, if things go wrong. Therefore I would rather put up with controls for some time. In the meanwhile I should like to make one suggestion to the Government not only in regard to these controls but in regard to controls over other commodities that they should call some sort of conference of experts who have experience of these controls and also of those who claim to represent the consumers and also those who represent the middlemen and then with their help try to find out why these controls have created so much trouble for the masses and in what manner these controls can be better administered or can be completely given up. That is particularly in regard to food control. Coming to other controls there is one very useful pamphlet published by one of my friends who is associated with the Ahmedabad Labour Union. He is Mr. Kandhu Desai. I dare say my Honourable friend Mr. Rajaji has already read that pamphlet with the care which it deserves. There are so many facts given in this. I do not wish to traverse all of them. I would commend this pamphlet for the attention of every one of the Honourable Members of this House. I only want to touch upon one or two things. We are told in this pamphlet that before the war the middlemen or the wholesalers were allowed only a margin of one per cent profit for all their troubles over their total turn over or over the price of cloth or yarn that they were selling but the Textile Control Board has allowed them three per cent. They have given no reasons at all for this 3 per cent over the total value of cloth or yarn that was passing through their hands. The price of cloth and yarn has already gone up by 200 per cent and even 300 per cent over prewar prices. In spite of that, these people are being given 3 per cent instead of one per cent. He also mentions the illegitimate and secret gains made by the managing agents and their friends and associates in the purchase of materials and stores and on the sale of products etc. Not being satisfied with this, these gentlemen want to make more money. Today the industry has got on hand 40 crores of liquid cash which might be utilised for renewals. Notwithstanding all these facts the plants and mills are still in good working condition and the amount drawn as commission is ten times the amount that was being paid to managing agents during normal period for services rendered by them to run the industry. If one were to look very closely into cloth control business, one would be convinced that it is a very well planned out racket to defraud the

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

consumers under the camouflage of government authority and dignity. Why does it happen? I think one explanation is that when these prices are being fixed these officers are expected to take into account the cost of production at the marginal form and the marginal form of cost of production is naturally the maximum and because it is inefficient and it is incompetent and so on—the machinery may be dilapidated or out of date and various other things—the marginal forms of cost of production is so high and the control prices are being fixed at the maximum level with the result that a maximum number of items in any one particular industry can enjoy what is known as producers' services. And the consequence is that there is no possibility at all for the consumers to enjoy any consumers' surplus. And once you make this free gift of producers' surplus to these various producing firms the prices naturally go higher and the consumers are continuously exploited.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan)]

Thirdly, Sir, in the administration of these controls only the producers' interests are taken into consideration and not the interests of consumers. I may be told that on the Textile Control Board there are one or two representatives of the consumers. I do not know, but even if there were to be one or two that is not enough. Their interests are not properly assessed and valued and they are not properly considered, and the result is that they suffer. The worst of all these controls is this. The face value of the commodities or services that are being controlled today is not the real value to the consumers, it is only one-third, and often-times it is even one-fourth of the real value that the consumers are obliged to pay. That is why I want these controls to go, but supposing these controls go what is likely to happen? It is our duty to think about that also. We expect all these industrialists and middlemen to compete with one another. But how will they compete? Has it not been a fact that during the war most of these people have come to organise themselves into a sort of semi-monopolies? To some extent it is true. But even then once these controls go there will be a chance for new people to come into these trades and these industries and the earlier people also may fall out among themselves as sometimes robbers do. Then there is bound to be a greater chance for competition among these people than there is at present. Thirdly, the efficiency of any production is likely to go up. Even in distribution what is happening as a result of these controls is this. These people are assured of a particular rate of return whether they are efficient or inefficient, and so there has been no inducement at all for greater and greater efficiency or for weeding out inefficient firms or individuals. That difficulty can be minimised, if not completely eliminated, if these controls were to go. Fourthly, I may be told that if the controls were to go the poor people are bound to suffer much more. I agree that controls there should be only for the sake of the poor people. May be some of these controls were instituted in the interest of the poor people,—I do not know,—but in actual fact it is not the poor people who are being benefited in most cases by these controls, but only the rich people. Why? Because the stuff is there and according to the controls the stuff is given to certain permit-holders—retailers and wholesalers. They keep it there, they are expected to keep some sort of a register of the consumers to whom this stuff is being supplied. There is no control at all to prevent these people from keeping these bogus returns. And the rich people are able to get all the stuff through the back-door. When the poor people go there they are very often told that the stuff is out of stock and is not at all available. They do not know what to do, they simply scratch their heads and curse their fate and go back home. That is what is happening everywhere, in towns and cities.

Secondly, as between towns and villages there ought to be proper distribution of these commodities. But actually what happens is that these permits

are given only to business people who live in towns and the village folk are obliged to go to the towns; they are generally very apologetic and they are fearful of these businessmen. They go to these businessmen who simply turn round and say that all the stuff that should have gone to their village had gone away and they had better go back. They go back and the stuff goes to the black market. Somehow or other he has got his own storages where he keeps the stuff and sells it overnight or at any other convenient time. In this way today in actual practice there is maldistribution of these commodities as between the towns and villages, as between the rich and the poor, and it is the poor people and the village folk who are really suffering and demand the abolition of these controls. Sir, I have been roaming our countryside, even after the session had started, in Andhra, and no slogan is more popular today in the villages than that the controls should go. You may say that the people are suffering from a suicidal mania, it may be so, but their sufferings from these controls have been so much and so uncontrollable that they prefer to live for some time anyhow, as a sort of experiment, without these controls to living with these controls. There is one ray of hope in this gloomy atmosphere, and that is the advent of my Honorable friend Mr. Rajagopalachari into this department. I felt very unhappy indeed when recently he went over from this department to some other department, and I began to wonder what would happen to these poor folk. Now he has come back again to this department; I welcome him there because while I was away in the country I read that he was himself not so very keen on these controls. Now, Sir, with this determination of his to try to put an end to as many of these unnecessary and injurious controls as possible, I trust that it will be possible for him to given his most serious consideration to this particular point of view that is held by not only myself but several of us, and I sincerely trust that when we meet in our next session he will be able to come to this House and tell us how many controls he has been able to get rid of.

One more fact is this. After the war was over a number of controls, it is true, have been relaxed. These are controls in which rich people, influential people, and educated people are interested. Controls over some medicines have gone, that means that it is the educated people, the doctors, who had been able to make representations. Controls over steel products and various other things have gone, because big industrialists are interested. Over exports some of the controls have been withdrawn, where our businessmen and industrialists are interested. Somehow or other they have been able to get the services of economic experts, industrial experts and also some lawyers to go and plead with the department, and they have been able to get some sort of relief. It is only controls that affect the poor people that have not yet been relaxed, and more and more controls are coming in. Recently there was this control over groundnut, oil cake and so on; and people are suffering like anything. I could give any number of details but I do not want to go into all that. There is this latest one about coconuts. These coconuts are produced in Malabar and the prices have gone up like a rocket. Coconut is not available, oil is not available, and where it is available it is only at famine prices. Is that the way in which ordinary folk are to be treated? So I want Government firstly to stop controlling any more commodities, and secondly, to fix and drop these controls as soon as possible or as many commodities as possible; thirdly, to appoint a sort of expert committee or to convene a sort of special conference and ask for their expert assistance in better administering those few controls which they think they ought to continue for some time. Lastly, they should put some sort of time limit beyond which they will not be prepared to institute or maintain these controls on any commodity, even including food. Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President: Cut motion moved

ced by

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support what my Honourable friend, Prof Ranga has said, and I do not wish to repeat the points which he has put forward. I would like to lay stress on one particular aspect of the trouble and worry which arises out of these many controls and that is the harassment and the loss of time caused to poor people and to the average man and woman. Prof Ranga has spoken of his experiences in far off Madras and in the Andhra district. I am told people are very mild there and they are long-suffering—he certainly is not—but at any rate in my part of the country people are supposed to stand on their dignity more and they are militant.

Shri Sri Prakasa: But Madras has upset its ministry. What are we here?

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: You yourself come from this part of the country and you must be aware how difficult it is for a poor man to get what he wants. In the first place think of the time that is wasted.

I will deal with two important commodities. First I will take food. I have seen again and again in Delhi that it is one of the most difficult things for a man to get his ration card made. He has to go and stand outside the ration office for hours together and when his turn comes he is asked to produce somebody to identify him. When that identification is made, they tell him to come back after three or four days and when he comes after three or four days they say that their Inspector's enquiry has not been completed. Sir, I have seen that happen times out of number to my own servants and people whom I have known. I had to take them personally to the ration office and with some difficulty I could manage to get their ration cards. What happens next? These people have to keep on waiting outside ration shops or places where they are supposed to get their food, and it takes them hours to get their rations. Very often there is a haltal, or there is some kind of trouble on account of the political movement—it is either anti-Pakistan day, or pro-Pakistan day. All this causes great difficulty to the poor people.

Then, Sir, we come to cloth. These poor people, who have no stock of cloth like you and me might have to go from one shop to another to be told that the month's quota has not arrived. When the quota arrives then they say 'your last number is 4, and today is the 5th, and therefore you cannot get it today'. He asks when he can get it again, and the poor man is told 'you will get it in the next quota'. I know a particular instance of a place—I will not mention its name, it was a very small station—where whenever the poor people went to a ration shop, the door was closed. Once I went with my servant and the door was closed as usual. When I made a certain amount of agitation and tried to tell them that I had a certain amount of importance, I was allowed to go in, and I found that there was a certain gentleman who had been looking and selecting from all the cloth which was there for hours. I asked why the shopkeeper had let him in from the back-door. He said 'don't you know this man has got 21 first class permits because he is a very rich man and pays heavy income-tax'. On the pretext of some marriage in the family, he had got these permits, and he purchased practically everything that was included in the quota for that small station. I remember an old gentleman there who told me that it was the sixth time that he had come but he had not been able to get even a yard of cloth. He said that if only he had been a little younger he would have shown to the control man how he could deal with him. I was also told that in that station, that as soon as my cloth arrived, the Chief Magistrate and the big Government officials had their choice. They did not go to the shop but things were very kindly taken over to their places and they made their selection first. These instances show the harassment that the poor man has to go through. To these poor men an hour or two means 5 or 4 annas in wages. They are losing wages and they are getting desperate.

If they want kerosene, there is no kerosene available in the bazaar. Last year the Honourable the Finance Member out of his great consideration for the poor reduced the price of matches to two pice. What happened, and what is happening even now: The rich are able to get matches at 2, 3 or 4 annas per box, but the poor man does not get his matches and he goes from pillar to post in search of them. I find that a box of matches is everyday stolen from my pocket, and I realize that my servants need the matches and they cannot get it anywhere. Sir, a member of the European group last year spoke about the glorious army of controllers, and I think that that army is getting more and more glorious as years go on, its number is swelling. It is high time that some control should be exercised on their number. I am not one of those who will say that all controls are useless, but I would like the Honourable Member to look into the way in which these controls are administered. He is an acknowledged champion of the poor. I would like him to save the poor from the harassment and provide them with what they cannot get.

My Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, was perfectly correct when he said that the rich can get what they want. I remember only a short while ago when I was travelling with a magnate from Bombay he said 'I am a very honest man I have never tried to break any controls'. I said, 'you look it, but what about petrol?' He said, 'Yes, I would confess that petrol I have always got whenever I wanted it'. Sir, I cannot understand why petrol should continue to be rationed. The rich can always get petrol, it is the poor man, an average man like myself who cannot get petrol. I asked the Honourable the Communication Member last session what was happening to these millions of gallons of aviation spirit which the Army had collected but which they do not now need. I do not know whether my question was understood because it was a supplementary question, but he said the Army still needed it. I suppose they do need it, but have you ever passed by Mathra? If you have, you must have seen that there are enormous dumps of aviation spirit lying there as at other places and all this is surplus, and yet that petrol is not being released. I am sure, Sir, you have never suffered from lack of petrol, but have you ever known anybody who is willing to pay not being able to get petrol? There was a time when rubber was supposed to be very precious and nobody could get a tyre without permit. I can vouch for it—I did not get one myself—that if you were prepared to pay Rs. 50 you could get a motor tyre without any trouble whatsoever. Then suddenly it was found that there was so much rubber in the country and there were so many tyres that they were perishing, and the control was removed. I do not understand why the control on petrol should continue? That is only one commodity, but there are a number of others on which control is not necessary. I would not for a moment ask my Honourable friend opposite—who is not listening to me and is talking to his colleague,—to remove all controls, I am not going to suggest that there is likely to be a revolution in the country, though my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, said that people are continually shouting slogans in his part of the country against controls. I only ask if there is not need at present to have a minute examination of these controls. So many committees are being appointed, this Government like its predecessor is no less expert in appointing committees. Why cannot they appoint another committee for examination of these controls. One day I got up in the morning and read in the Newspaper that something like 154 controls had been lifted. I thought a happy day had dawned. I scanned the paper and had a look at the list of the controls removed. I could not understand what they were, because they seemed to me to refer to some kind of strange machinery with which I was not at all familiar, some kind of intricacies of imports, and exports which only the rich and specialist could know. My Honourable friend mentioned that the control over medicine had been lifted. How has it benefited the poor people? Medicines could then be got at a reasonable rate and now if you lift the control the chemists who are famous or infamous

[Dr. J. C. Chatterjee]

for selling their goods at ten and fifteen times their price, will be able to charge even higher prices. I beseech my Honourable friend to turn his great mind and his heart, which is even greater, to the sufferings of the people in this town, in Andhra Desh, in Bengal or wherever they may be, and think of the ways in which they suffer from the maladministration of these controls. I am particularly worried about Delhi, where I see the poor people among whom one lives, the way they have to waste time, how their women folk have to go and stand hour after hour in front of food shops and outside cloth shops. I could bring to the Honourable Member's notice many instances, where when they do get their cloth, they get something which is entirely useless. It may be two yards of muslin with which they cannot make either a *dupata* or a *pugree*, while the rich have the pick of available cloth. I have never yet known a rich man not having enough food for himself and his guests. He gets his oil, his *ghee* and his sugar, because he gets his servants to give their cards to him. I want my Honourable friend to look into this thing. The way these controls are administered is sometimes disgraceful. I will not say anything more. I hope that these words will not be of no avail on a great mind and heal like those of the Honourable Member in Charge of this Department.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Just a word of explanation, Sir. I think the Honourable Member was saying that I was engaged in conversation when he was speaking. I am sorry to tell him that he is wrong, for I was discussing with my colleague the very point which he was making.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan (Dacca cum Myinensingh Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we are living in days of disunity, quarrel and strife but there is one question on which there is perfect unanimity, not only in the country but also in this House, and that is that the controls should go as early as possible and if possible here and now. On that question there is perfect unanimity in the whole country.

The other day during the general discussion on the budget I said that nothing was more galling to the public than these controls. A year hence, in fact, in June 1948, Indians will be a happy people because they will be freed from foreign domination but then happiness will not be complete unless they are freed from the domination of these controls. Therefore I hope now that the Honourable Mr. Rajagopalachari in control of this department, he will see that the happiness of the Indian people on gaining their freedom after many long years, is not marred by the presence of these controls in June 1948.

Sir, I agree with Prof. Ranga as to 99 per cent. of what he said. Government also, I think, is following the policy of abolishing these controls gradually. After all that must be the policy. The controls, as has been often said, are a necessary evil. If we can get rid of them today, no one would be happier than the Honourable Member in charge. But unfortunately the conditions prevailing in the country make these controls necessary. The other day it was said that the controls must remain for sometime more, because production has been and will continue to be retarded on the account of the shortage of coal. If production is going to be retarded then of course it would be difficult to lift the controls from any of the commodities for the production of which coal is necessary, but there I hold a different opinion. I do not think that the shortage of coal even if it is still there, will continue to remain. The greatest impediment in the production of coal was till recently shortage of wagons. So far as that is concerned the Honourable the Railway Member gave us an assurance the other day that he is doing his very best to remove this shortage and I do not know why he will be unsuccessful. Therefore I do not believe that there is going to be a shortage in the production of coal. There is enough coal underneath the earth in India and there is also no dearth of labour. So the plea that production will be retarded on account of the shortage of coal cannot stand scrutiny.

For these reasons I do not think that it will be difficult for the Honourable Member in charge to lift the controls quickly.

My Honourable friend Prof. Ranga said that the control should be lifted from cloth now. I shall be happy if that can be done but in this particular case I have my apprehensions. If the control on cloth is removed just now in the midst of the shortage, what will happen is that the rich will get their cloth all right but it will be extremely difficult for the poor to get their cloth. During the worst days of cloth shortage that is what happened. The rich were not deprived of their requirements but the poor did not get them and the House will remember that there were cases of suicide by women on account of the shortage of cloth. Therefore, I apprehend that if the control on cloth is removed now, that situation may be repeated. Now the production position is better than what it was in those days but unfortunately it is not the shortage of production so much as the character of some of our people that makes these controls necessary. You know how shamefully some of our middlemen behaved during the worst days that India passed through. It was largely on account of their conduct that there was that nasty famine in Bengal. It was largely due to their conduct that the poor went without their cloth during the worst days. Therefore as long as that mentality lasts and none can deny that that mentality is still there, it will certainly be difficult for the Honourable Member in charge to remove the control on cloth here and now. Otherwise from the position of production I think the removal of control from cloth would not have been impossible. It is that mentality, that profiteering tendency that subsists in the country that will stand in the way of removing the control on cloth just now. This is a matter which has to be examined by Government very carefully. I think as the Honourable Member himself is personally of the opinion that there should not be any of these controls, he will certainly deal with this matter more sympathetically than any other person in his position would have done. Therefore we can confidently hope that he will closely examine this question and try to remove as many controls as possible within as short a time as possible. We are confident of that. I will in this respect venture a suggestion. My Honourable friend spoke about removing the control from cloth just now but I would like to suggest that the control from another commodity may perhaps be removed without any great risk. I mean the control over sugar. There is certainly shortage of sugar in the country. There is no doubt about that. But what is the cause of the shortage? There may be other causes, coal shortage, for instance. I do not believe it. I have already dealt with it. The main cause for the shortage of sugar is I think the shortage in cane production. And what is the reason for the shortage in cane production? I think the only reason is that we are not giving proper prices to cane growers. Unless we can create conditions under which the cane growers can get proper price for their cane I do not think that in spite of the best efforts that may be made in other directions, production of sugar in the country is going to rise. I therefore suggest that the question should be very carefully examined whether control from sugar can be removed just now. If that is done there will be hardship here and there, but the results will not be as catastrophic as in the case of cloth for example. There will be hardship. The poor people will be affected. But the poor people can depend on *gur* rather than on sugar. So far as the rich people are concerned they could purchase their sugar for their tea at a far higher price than they are paying at present. Therefore, even if the worst happens I think the danger will not be so great as it can be in the case of foodgrains or in the case of cloth. This question should therefore be seriously examined.

I think, Sir, unless we try our best to throw these things under the plow of the economic forces in the country, normal conditions will never return. Economic forces will adjust themselves and will bring about normality. Therefore, if by lifting the control from sugar we raise the price of sugar, that may be unpalatable. But if you raise the price of sugar that will raise the price of

[Mr. Tamisuddin Khan]

cane also and that will increase the production of cane, and consequently of sugar. Therefore these economic forces by acting and reacting on one another will ultimately bring about normal conditions. This is nothing new that I am saying. Everyone knows it. I only hope that the question will be seriously examined and such play of these economic forces should be induced as is possible under the circumstances prevailing in the country.

Shri Sri Prakash: Mr. Deputy President, Sir, it gives me much sombre satisfaction to support the cut that has been so ably moved by my Honourable friend Professor Ranga. This morning, Sir, in the course of the debate on another out, I ventured to ask the Honourable the Supply Member if he could possibly advance any reason for the sudden shortage of everything in the world. And he was at pains to tell me that if only I kept my eye open I could see the reason. The misfortune is, Sir, that I look at the world through white glasses and be through dark one. Therefore, though both of us behind our glasses try to keep our eyes open, the fact is that we see the same thing of the world in different colours. The reason that he advanced was something very different to the reason that I can advance for this sudden catastrophe with which we are faced.

Forty years or more ago I read the then famous books by Dadabhai Naoroji on "Poverty and the British Rule in India," by Digby on "Prosperous British India," by R. C. Dutt and others. Since then I have been told times without number that a major portion of the population of our country does not know what it is to have two square meals a day, and many not even what it is to have a full stomach, and that most of the people in the land are half naked—which half we need not worry about. When we had, all these difficulties from the very start, how is it that suddenly the whole problem comes like a crash before the Government and everybody wakes up to see what can be done.

I will tell him the reason. It is this. Because of the peculiar situation created by the war, because of the voracious appetite of the army people to have everything of the best for themselves, because of that, it suddenly happened that the well-to-do also began to suffer from difficulties which had faced only the poor before. So they looked about and tried to find out ways and means of meeting their personal difficulties. Therefore they established these controls, and began to pretend that there was a shortage of cloth, of food, of everything that was necessary for man and that the poor must be saved. The poor remain where they were, the powerful and the influential have certainly been saved. My only sorrow is that Professor Ranga has not included food also in the list of articles from which controls are asked to be removed. I am for the removal of control over everything. I may tell the Government this and it can accept my statement on the strength of its own experience. As soon as a control of any sort is removed, heaps of things come up from underground. As soon as all the warrants on so-called absconders were removed, a large number of patriots appeared overground.

If control from food, from cloth and from everything was removed, all those things will appear on the surface in large masses to meet the requirements of everybody. I am only a lay man and I have a horror for experts, for I think a layman, an ordinary man is the biggest expert of all the things that really matter in life. As a layman, an ordinary man, a man in the street, as a common man, I can say this, that as long as inflation exists, as long as the Reserve Bank goes on printing artificial money endlessly, so long the price which is condemned as black market price will remain the economic price of the article concerned, and not all your efforts can prevent the prices being less. All that you can do is this! To those whom you like, those who are your officers and servants, those who, in their turn, are favourites of these, you can force people

to part with goods, food, cloth and everything—at the price that you fix. But for the rest of us the price will be the black market price and nothing less.

These controls have always spelt disaster in every field of human endeavour. There used to be celebrate sects in the East and West alike. They were required to exercise the utmost control over all the urges of ordinary human nature. I can say this— and history will bear me out—that the largest number of children were born to the celebrate people. Sir, just as there was corruption and attendant difficulties because of which the reforming sects sprang up in different parts of the world to abolish this nonsense of celibacy and to permit the usual instincts of human nature to have play, so I say that if these controls are abolished on various things in our country, everything will find its level and competition will also go. Of course there will be disturbance for three or four weeks. Any change brings about that. But things will soon quiet down.

I have been a bit of a socialist myself in days gone-by. But when I saw it at work during this war, with all these controls, I found that socialism was only another name for bureaucratization. We have heaps of officers, small and big, functioning in all sorts of places and interfering with human liberty and human necessity. I hope, Sir, that this process will now stop. We can bear, though with a pang, the expansion of the Executive Council from six to fourteen. But we cannot bear the eternal expansion of all departments of Government. They try to justify their existence under one pretence or another and they must go. My friend Mr. Karmarkar has already given us examples of how different departments of the State have been expanding enormously to the detriment of the welfare of the people.

What is happening is this. And as I come from a town where I have had personal experience of the working of controls, I can say that what is really happening is that Government servants have the first pick. My friend Lt.-Col. Chatterjee—I do not know why he is called Lt.-Col.—has given us some illustrations of how things go on. Sir, Government servants have the first pick. As soon as things arrive, they are supplied first of all. It would indeed be difficult for me to imagine—I mean no harm—that in the eleven yards of cloth that are allowed to the average citizen in my province, the Finance Member could have even the number of ties that he seems to need. And then the whole trade has been deflected from those in whose hands it was and who managed it well to the hands of those who do not know the business at all but who are just the favourites of the men in authority. In Benares, licences of various shops have been given to persons who in the dark days of 1942-45 were favourites of Government and the local officials, and who knew nothing of the trade. The old traders have just been ruined and these new men have got the trade and all its profits.

The result is that in their shops they pretend to be high officers of State themselves. If an ordinary shopkeeper behaved in the way that these gentlemen behave with the imprimatur of Government, we would give them a few slaps and make them behave better, but as we can not do that—they being Government men—they mix up a lot of dust, lot of stones and pebbles in the wheat and *ata*. We have no relief; and if we complain, we find that the Inspectors always give good certificate to their own men and we are told that there is nothing wrong with the stuff but that there must be something wrong with our own stomachs and tongues because of which we cannot digest them or we cannot feel the taste of them. With these favourites at work, with this new army of officials at work, the people have been simply laid low.

I was hoping that with the advent of the present Government all these controls will be removed and that all the stuff that is lying underground will be available. My Honourable friend said we are managing somehow. We are all better clothed than we were before. Well, that may be so, but why: because those persons who want to clothe themselves properly have to go to the black market and they get everything they want in the black market. There must be plenty of things available underground for the needs of all seem to be met.

[Shri Sri Prakasa]

Otherwise how is it that we all get our cloth and we all get our food. We get all the things we need and even Mr Chatterjee is able to get his petrol.

Now, Sir, I am not a very straight laced person and I do not want to protest as my friend Mr Chatterjee has done, that he has never taken petrol from the black market. I have done it in dire need, and I can tell Government that I am going to do it, because necessity knows no law, and if the Honourable Member is going to make bad laws, those laws are going to be broken. He has broken many bad laws himself in his lifetime and I am going to break some more if he persists in making them.

My Honourable friend the Supply Member has asked me this morning—or was it yesterday morning, in the course of his answers to supplementaries—to bring forward a Resolution for the removal of control, if I was so keen about it. I ask him to regard this a Resolution on the removal of control. Let him not get up at the end and tell the House that he would very much like the Resolution to be withdrawn after he has given his—what he calls—assurances. Let us divide. Let him accept a hundred rupees cut. This small cut from his salary will not be very hard for him. Let him accept it. Let him relieve the burden on the taxpayers if only by Rs. 100; and let us get the verdict of this House and let him accept the verdict. He will then know what our real feelings are. He will know that we all want this control to be removed. I heartily support this cut and I hope Government will accept it.

Seth Sukhdev (Sind Non-Muhammadian Rural) I rise to support the cut motion of my friend Acharya Ranga. Control and corruption go together and as soon as a thing is put under control the stuff goes into the black market and if you are prepared to pay high prices you can receive any quantity there. This control was necessitated by the war. The British Government purchased huge quantities of articles and these were sent to the frontiers and when they were treated, in order, these were either destroyed or were taken over by the enemies and therefore they required another huge set of articles. Now that the war is over since two years, we do not see why these controls should go on. I say that the control of cloth, sugar, kerosene oil, iron and steel should be abolished at once. For example, take cloth. Our Government is giving about a dozen yards per person and I can assure them that the people do not get even six yards. I have got my personal experience in Sind. I have gone from village to village but even in Delhi in Ferozeshah Road, where I live, I asked the poor people living 14, Ferozeshah Road and they told me that they cannot get even six yards. At least every person should get two dhoties and two shirts. In pre-war days, they were sufficient because the cloth was durable and strong but now thanks to our capitalist mill owners they have deteriorated cloth in quality. Even my friend Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai will admit that the quality is only 1/4th of the pre-war quality. How can the poor men get on with two dhoties and two shirts? But even these are not obtainable. They told me that they are getting extra cloth from the black market where it is obtainable in huge quantities. Whatever figures are given by the mill owners, of their cloth production to the Textile Department are all incorrect. They have got huge quantities of cloth which they sell in the black market. I know the mill owners very well. They are my friends. I know merchants as well and therefore I am in a position to tell you that they have huge stocks of cloth and the moment control of cloth is removed, there will be no scarcity at all. I am going to give you an example about silk and woollen cloth. Everybody thought that when controls over them were to be removed, their price would go up. The price of silk has gone down by 40 per cent. Only a few days back I went to Chandni Chowk and the silken saree that was obtainable for Rs. 100 before, was being eagerly offered for Rs. 60. Then, I went to the Khadi Bhandhar, where I was shown

fine cotton saree which was being quoted at Rs. 46, whereas the ordinary silken saree in the Bazar can be had for Rs. 36. So, if you remove the control on cotton cloth, nothing will happen. The same was in the case of silk and wool. The moment the control was lifted from these commodities, the cupboards of all the shops were full of silk and woollen cloths within a few days. It appears as though they had fallen from the sky and now you can have things of your choice and at prices which are much less than the control prices.

So far as sugar, kerosene and steel and iron are concerned, the poor villagers get very insignificant quantities of them. If you remove the control from these, they are not going to lose anything. These people will, then, be able to get all these commodities, though at a little higher price. In connection with cloth, I will draw the attention of the Honourable Member concerned, to an advertisement which appeared in the *Statesman* of 9th March. It is said therein, that the Disposals Department are selling thousands of celonese parachutes and their export is allowed. As we all know, this parachute cloth is very durable and it is this cloth that is being purchased by the poor people who cannot get controlled cloth in the Bazaar. And it is from this cloth that they are having their Shalwars and shirts. It is very difficult to unstitch each part of parachute, but the poor people can do it. If you allow its export, it will also go into black market. I shall, therefore, request that these parachutes should not be allowed for export. Then, Japan is producing lot of cloth which is unfinished and we read that the British and American merchants want to purchase that cloth, finish it and then sell it in the world markets. Why should we not get a part of that cloth? I can assure you that it will not affect our industry for many years because a very small quantity of these materials will come from outside. I, therefore, request the Honourable Member concerned that he should relax restrictions on the import of these essential commodities and do away with these licences because they have all produced lot of corruption.

Then, Sir, about the export. We have got lot of cotton in our hands. Only the other day, the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies told us during the question hour and I would like to read out what he said.

"Seth Sukhdev: Is the Honourable Member aware that even at this low rate mill-owners are not coming into the market to purchase the cotton?"

The Honourable Sir, C. Rayagopalachari: The floor is fixed and the ceiling is fixed. They considered all matters and it is to be expected that prices may near the floor sometimes and sometimes the ceiling. As to whether millowners have wickedly refused to buy is a matter of very difficult negotiation. My information is that they have enough stocks and we cannot compel people to buy when they have enough stocks."

I would particularly invite the attention of the Honourable Members to the last sentence of the Honourable Member's answer. I do not understand why there should be any restrictions on the export of staple cotton. Do they wish to ruin the agriculturist for the sake of some gain to millowners? The millowners have already gained crores and crores; their pillows are full of gold. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Member to at once remove restrictions on export of cotton and allow the agriculturist to get a fair price.

As regards the export of wool, I do not know why there should be any restriction there. In times of war Government required blankets and many other things. But now that the war is over, our mills are interested in Indian wool to a small extent. I wish, therefore, that the wool should be allowed to be exported free.

In the end, I would request the Honourable Member concerned to remove controls from cotton cloth, sugar, iron and steel and other commodities. About iron and steel, I may inform the House that people who wanted it for *bona fide* purposes did not get although they applied for it for over six months. On some technical grounds their applications were held up. Unless they grease the palms of corrupt officials, they are not going to get iron and steel. I have got personal experience of it. In conclusion, I would again request the Government to remove all these controls and gain the blessings of 40 crores of Indian people, except a few thousand capitalists and some corrupt officials.

Chaudhry Sri Chand (Nominated Non-Official). (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 12th March, 1947. English translation given below.—*Ed. of D.*)

Sir, a friend of mine said that the police was now third on the list and on my asking on which list he replied that formerly they were first in corruption but now first in this respect is the Supply Department, second, Central P. W. D. and third, police. Control and corruption, in my opinion, are one and the same, when at first controls were imposed villagers thought that owing to war Government was in need of money and so they have given the articles on contract. They thought that Government wanted contributions from those contractors. They never believed nor do they believe now that this was done for the poor. I think on the Interim Government's coming into office everybody expected that the controls would be removed. But, now it appears that the same old clerks and officials give advice to the Interim Government that if controls were removed poor people would die. They will not get this, they will not get that. The fact is that if controls are removed poor people would get at least third or fourth class things. Under the controls they want to give them first class things. Have you ever heard of getting a good thing under the control? Regarding cloth which is sent to villages I can say from my own experience that sellers sometimes send bales of handkerchiefs and sometimes of saris. What will the villagers do with handkerchiefs and saris? They never think nor do the Honourable Member understand that villagers want cloth for dhotis and petticoats. They force them to buy their quota of saris. When they say what will they do with sari? They are told to let it be put in their maues and then to return it to them. That is how the controls are maintained. In addition, they say that poor people get things cheap under control. I say that the way in which controls are maintained are not at all the right method of control. On this side of the Jumna the rate of gur is Rs. 18 per maund, while on the other side it is Rs. 20 per maund. A person who gets its contract earns two to four lakhs of rupees.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member can continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned Till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 13th March, 1947.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 13th March, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

ROAD ROLLER MISSION REPORT.

†901. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if the Government of India propose to publish the Report of the Road Roller Mission?

(b) Is it a fact that the Mission recommended that except for the steam-boiler and diesel oil engine parts, the rest of the components of road rollers may be manufactured in India?

(c) Is it a fact that the D. G. I. S. D., London had been asked to place orders for 891 complete road rollers? If so, why?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) Sir, I should like to take this opportunity to state the circumstances leading up to the appointment of the Road Roller Mission. During the war many road rollers were taken over for the construction of military and air force works. The burden of civil work, therefore, fell on smaller number of road rollers the lives of which were consequently shortened. During the war replacement was impossible. In the meantime vast postwar road development schemes had also been prepared. At the end of the war, therefore, an abnormal demand arose for 3,400 road rollers of which nearly 1,400 were required immediately. This should be compared with the normal annual demand of 200 to 300 road rollers per annum. The possibility of indigenous manufacture was considered. It was found that it was unlikely that such capacity would exceed 300 road rollers a year, i.e., the normal annual requirement. The problem, therefore, was to obtain as many road rollers as possible as quickly as possible. Simultaneously with this came up the question of utilisation of Ordnance Factories for civil production. It was decided to enlist the co-operation of some UK Road Roller Manufacturers to advise on the possibility of utilising the capacity of Ordnance Factories for this purpose. As a result of the investigations carried out by the Mission, arrangements were made with the UK firms to undertake the manufacture of 1,500 road rollers in co-operation with the Ordnance Factories and the Indian associates of these firms. I have placed on the table a copy of the Press Note which summarises the position. The Report of the Mission was in the nature of a preliminary survey intended for departmental use only and as it deals with Ordnance Factories, it cannot be published.

(b) The opinion expressed by the Mission was that, given the right technical guidance, the resources of Indian Ordnance Factories were more than adequate to deal with the manufacture of components and sub-components for the Road Rollers required by India.

(c) Yes, Sir. Originally, orders for 891 road rollers were placed; but when as a result of the recommendations of the Road Roller Mission, the scheme of part manufacture in India and part manufacture in the United Kingdom

* Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(1947)

materialised, the number was reduced to 250 for which commitments had already been made by the D.G.I.S.D., Blackpool. Subsequently an indent for another 60 road rollers was placed on a UK firm as these rollers were reported to be available and there were pressing demands from indentors for immediate supply. The immediate requirements of roads had to be met while we were reorganising the production in Ordnance Factories.

PRESS NOTE

Road Rollers for India—Ordnance Factories and Indian Firms to produce technical information from U. K.

One thousand Steam and five hundred Diesel Road Rollers of the British type will be manufactured by Indian Ordnance factories and certain Indian firms in co-operation with manufacturers in the U. K., as a result of the recommendations of the Road Rollers Mission which visited India early this year and the negotiations carried on by the Government of India with the representatives of British concerns.

It is hoped that this will go a long way to meet the large demand for Road Rollers in connection with the Road Development Schemes of the Central and Provincial Governments and Indian States and pave the way for the eventual manufacture of complete units of road-making machinery in the country.

The entire scheme will cost about Rs. 4,40,00,000 nearly 40 per cent. of which will be incurred in the Indian Ordnance factories and the rest in Indian and associated British concerns. Deliveries are expected to start early next year for completion within two years.

The terms agreed upon provide *inter alia* that jigs, patterns, drawings, designs, and other technical information will be made available in the country and that such technical personnel and co-ordinating cells as may be required by the Ordnance Factories and other firms concerned will be provided by the contracting British firms.

The arrangements are that complete boiler and gear units in respect of steam rollers and engines and gear units in respect of Diesel rollers will be imported from the U. K. and the rest manufactured in the Ordnance factories and two Indian firms. Erection, assembly, commissioning and servicing will be done entirely in India.

A trial order for twelve Diesel road rollers is proposed to be placed on an Indian firm. Efforts are also being continued to locate capacity which will enable the manufacture of complete road rollers in India.

The visit of the Road Roller Mission, consisting of the representatives of the British Road Roller Industry selected by the India Office on the advice of the Board of Trade and the Federation of Contractors' Plant, was arranged by the Government of India in consultation with the Secretary of State. The Mission visited the various Indian Ordnance factories and reported to the Government on the possibility of utilisation of the plant, tools, personnel and the general facilities available. The Mission also discussed with the Government of India the terms on which the manufacturers in the U. K. would be prepared to co-operate with the scheme. Subsequently the present agreement was arrived at between the Government of India and the manufacturers in the U. K.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES,

New Delhi, August 1, 1946.

FALL IN PRODUCTION OF CLOTH, SUGAR, CEMENT, STEEL, ETC.,

902. *Mr. Mannu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether it is a fact that production of all articles such as cloth, sugar, paper, cement, steel, kerosene, petrol and jute has considerably fallen in India, compared to the previous year?

(b) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the figures of pre-war production of these articles and the production for 1945-46, and indicate to what extent production will be less during 1946-47?

(c) What are the principal reasons for the decrease in production?

(d) What steps are Government taking to reduce inflation by the method of increased production in the country?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) The production of cloth, steel, kerosene and petrol fell in 1945-46 compared with the production of the previous year. The production of sugar, paper, cement and jute manufactures showed some increase.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table. I have indicated therein the reasons for the fall in production.

(d) More than one party has to co-operate in order to increase production. Government are endeavouring to do everything in their power to increase the production of the commodities which are in short supply. For instance, the following steps have been taken in respect of various commodities.

Textiles.—(1) Regulation of types of cloth produced.

(2) Working of three shifts wherever possible.

And I should add, a more exacting enquiry into the possibilities of giving considerably greater quantity of yarn to handlooms in the homes of weavers.

Sugar.—Forty-five new sugar factories are to be set up during the next five years.

Paper.—(1) Assistance in the procurement of raw materials, machinery, technical service, etc., is being afforded to the Paper Mills.

(2) Under the Paper Control (Production) Order, the production of paper by the Indian Mills has been restricted to certain specified varieties so as to secure the maximum output.

(3) The Technical Officers of the Directorate General of Industries and Supplies visit the paper mills from time to time and give whatever assistance may be possible.

(4) Advice and assistance are given to convert old uneconomic units into economic units.

Cement.—A big expansion programme, planned for completion by 1952, for the Cement Industry has been sponsored by the Government of India.

Steel.—Every effort is being made to supply the required quantity and quality of coal to the Steel Industry as this is the main obstacle to the utilisation of the full productive capacity of the Industry. Schemes for the expansion of the productive capacity are under way and the recommendations of the Iron & Steel (Major) Panel regarding the setting up of new works are under consideration.

Production of billets from scrap is being stepped up at the Metal and Steel Factory, Ichapore by changing the furnaces from acid to basic. A scheme for adding two more furnaces is under examination.

Kerosene and Petrol.—Search for new oil-fields, postponed during the war owing to the lack of equipment and technical personnel, is being resumed on a large scale.

Jute Manufactures.—The present manufacturing capacity is considered roughly adequate to meet the needs of the country and the present inflation is a temporary phase owing to the increased demand in connection with imports of food-stuffs.

Commodity	Production			Reasons for the fall in production during 1945-46 as compared with pre-war period
	Pre-war	1945/46	1946/47 (estimate)	
Sugar	7,65,000 tons	9,50,339 tons	9,50,000 tons	
Paper	84,000 "	1,08,000 "	1,08,100 "	
Cement	15,11,900 "	20,75,300 "	20,75,300 "	
Petrol	59,600 "	67,732 "	65,000 "	
Cloth	5972 million yards.	6197 million yards.	5,500 million yards.	(1) Reduction of hours of shifts from 9 to 8, from August 1946. (2) Riots, strikes and lock-outs in producing centres. (3) Absenteeism among labour.
Steel	7,35,000 tons	9,00,000 tons (calendar year 1946)	9,00,000 tons (calendar year 1947)	
Kerosene	1,10,000 "	53,545 tons	46,716 tons	(1) Exhaustion of known oil-fields. (2) Increase in the production of allied articles, e. g., petrol, because raw material for petrol, Kerosene and other refined petroleum products is the same viz. crude petroleum.
Jute manu- factures.	11,03,000 "	10,85,000 " (crop year July-June)	9,37,000 " (crop year July-June)	(1) Statutory limitation of of working hours to 48 per week. (2) Shortage of labour and raw jute needed to permit Jute Mills to run a second shift.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Government examine the question of giving bonus for increased production and also the question of giving bonus for extra work which the workmen may put in?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The matter difficult as it is will be considered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered the proposals which I put at the time of the budget discussion, namely that some articles like cement, steel and timber are required both by Government and for private housing programmes and will Government consider the question of suspending for a small period of two years import duties thereon? Of course there is not very much of these articles in the world which will come out, but it will probably help to smoothen the distribution of the existing commodities?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: That too will be considered, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: As shortage of coal and particularly of the right type of coal is responsible in many cases for the difficulties which the different industries are experiencing, is the Honourable Member in a position to state to the House as to when Government expect to give effect to the recommendations made by the Indian Coal Fields Committee?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: Sir, the position is clear enough, but to give effect to the proposals will take a gradual readjustment of the supply and movement of coal. Immediate change over being difficult—and it may produce dislocation of even the existing production,—we have to take a little more time than probably Honourable Members are prepared for. I think a certain amount of forbearance is necessary in regard to the time necessary for making these changes. The resources of coal are ample, but the difficulty is transport, chiefly, and the quality of coal necessary for metallurgical purposes. The conservation of that quality is receiving every attention on the part of Government. As to time it is difficult to tell, but I suppose if I say six months, it would be fairly correct.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member's department in close touch with the Railway Department for the purpose of devising methods by which the bottle neck which the railway transport represents can be removed?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: I am trying to keep in touch with the Honourable Member for Transport who is hearing the question and we shall do everything possible to bring matters to proper working shape.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What is the result of this co-operation so far?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: I think that if the Honourable Member will put down a question on this to the Railway Member, it would be better answered by him.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: With regard to production of sugar, there is so much difficulty about transport of sugarcane to the factory and especially in South India there is the difficulty of obtaining fuel also. Considering the decrease in the production of sugar, will the Government consider the advisability of giving proper value for sugarcane and also afford better transport facilities and also for increased supply of fuel for sugar factories?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: Here also I would recommend to the Honourable Member to put down a question for the Food Member and another question for the Transport Member.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the fact that shortage of coal is due primarily to transport difficulties, may I ask whether he has approached the Defence Department to release wagons which are not being used by them?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: The suggestion made has been heard by the Transport Member and he will answer if a question is put.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it not a fact that kerosene today is not in short supply but on the other hand is abundant and that it cannot be supplied in adequate quantities because of lack of containers?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: It is not merely the question of containers. The raw material for kerosene, petrol, and crude oil is the same. There is a slight change-over from one to the other and that is perhaps the reason for shortage of kerosene.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it not a fact that abundant quantities of kerosene have now come from Abadan in the Persian Gulf and it is not in short supply now?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to the increased demand of Government for their own departments of ten thousand tons of paper every year, may I know whether Government will adopt the suggestion made by the Standing Committee of the department that they should, as they said, negotiate for the import of this additional quantity of ten thousand tons from outside for their own purposes and not take it out of the very limited supply that is available for the non-official community?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I understand the suggestion is that indigenous paper may be left for civil consumption and Government might earmark foreign paper for themselves. I am disinclined to set a bad example from the side of Government in this matter but the question will be considered.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: May I know what the recommendation of the Coal Cess Committee is?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I should like to have notice.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Mishra: Is it not a fact that there has been a persistent complaint from the public that vast quantities of metallurgical coal are being wasted? May I know if Government have taken any definite steps so far to prevent dissipation of this high grade metallurgical coal, as the question is being raised since 1942?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Very definite steps have been taken to reduce the use by railways of metallurgical coal. But, as I said before, there are a few complications in making an immediate change-over and to reach the target of reduction in regard to the use of metallurgical coal on railways. It will take time; I am trying my best to get it done, and the Transport Member who is hearing these questions will certainly help in the matter.

GLIDING CLUBS IN INDIA.

903. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state the number of Gliding Clubs in India?

(b) What is the policy of Government towards gliding in this country?

(c) What steps are being taken by Government to encourage gliding in future?

(d) Are Government aware that there is a Gliding Club in Poona started by the Indian Gliding Association Ltd., having a beautiful site with hangars, gliders, etc.?

(e) If so, what encouragement was given by Government to this Institution in the past and what is going to be done in future?

(f) What was the subsidy given by Government to this Institution and for how long, and what is the subsidy sanctioned for the future?

(g) Was any amount included for gliding purposes in the budget for 1946-47, and what amount will be included in the budget proposals for 1947-48?

Mr. Masarat Hussain Zuberi: (a) There used to be one Club at Poona which is now defunct.

(b) and (c). The Government of India's general intentions relating to Gliding are outlined in para. 6 of the pamphlet on "Post War Planning—Aeronautical Training and Education" a copy of which is in the library of the House. Gliding is basically a sporting activity and the initiative must be taken by those who are interested in it. Government support will depend on the success achieved on the basis of local initiative.

(d) The Indian Gliding Association started activities on a site at Poona in 1942 with financial assistance from the Government of India, but the activities ceased in 1942. The hanger was a temporary structure. Government are not aware that the Association owns at present any serviceable gliders.

(e) and (f). In 1941 Government sanctioned a scheme costing about Rs. 1,17,000, including capital and recurring grants, for encouraging gliding, but, for various reasons, the scheme could not be put into effect and the activities had to be suspended in 1942. From 1941 to the end of 1946, Government granted financial assistance to the Association amounting to Rs. 55,807.

(g) No specific provision for financial assistance to "gliding" is included in the budget estimates for 1946-47 but an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 3,000 has been made to the Indian Gliding Association during the year. No specific provision has been proposed for subsidy to Gliding Clubs in the budget estimates for the year 1947-48.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Assuming that this club is defunct—which I emphatically deny—is it a fact that the Director-General of Civil Aviation himself wrote to the Association to put the Association in cold storage because one of his inexperienced friends handled a glider and met with an accident?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: I take it the Honourable Member is referring to the unfortunate accident in which one of the Senior officers of the Civil Aviation Directorate—and not a friend of the D. G. C. A.—was involved in 1942 and in which he lost both his eyes. That was a contributory cause. The glider which the officer was piloting and the other gliders purchased by the Association were purchased without expert advice from the D. G. C. A. But the closing down of their activities was due to the fact that the war in 1942 demanded that those activities should be diverted to more useful fields.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it a fact that the Government of India gave no help to this Association and their attitude has been most unsympathetic, forgetting the fact that Hitler

Mr. President: The Honourable Member need not argue; he can only ask for information.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I want to know if the attitude of the Government of India has not been very unsympathetic.

Mr. President: That is a matter of opinion. The Honourable Member may ask whether any help was given by Government, and if not, what the reasons were.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know why no encouragement was given to this Association?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: I have given information regarding the assistance given in the past and I have stated that the support of Government to gliding will depend on the initiative shown by local enterprise. I think this is a form of activity in which those who advocate private enterprise should show some enterprise.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it a fact that some of the universities have from time to time asked the Government of India to make arrangements for gliding facilities for them?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: I shall require notice of that question.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: Is this not one of the ways to make Indians air-minded?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: Expert advice does not support that view.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With regard to the Honourable Member's statement that gliding is basically a sporting activity, is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that Hitler invaded various islands as a result of gliding enterprise?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: With what results!

Mr. President: Order, order; next question.

IMPORT OF MOTOR CARS FROM U. K. AND U. S. A.

904. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Transport please state how many motor cars have arrived in India during the half year ending December 1946 from different countries, stating separately the number received from England and the United States of America?

(b) How were these distributed and what was the number distributed to each Province?

(c) Is it a fact that in certain Provinces in India the permit system has been abolished? If so, what are the reasons therefor?

(d) In what Provinces has this been done?

(e) What are the Provinces where the permit system is still in force and what are the reasons for continuing this system in certain Provinces, while it has been discontinued in certain others?

(f) Is it a fact that in Provinces where there is no permit system, motor dealers are doing black-marketing in selling new cars disregarding the control prices fixed by Government? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to see that black-marketing is avoided and cars are sold at control prices?

(g) Is it a fact that Members of the Constituent Assembly were offered new cars, whereas Members of the Central Legislature have not been so offered?

(h) What are the reasons for this differential treatment between Members of these two bodies?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Information showing the total number of motor cars which arrived in India during the half year ending December 1946 is not yet available. During the half year ending 30th September 1946, 8,771 motor cars arrived in India, of which 2,688 came from the United Kingdom, 285 from the United States of America and 798 from Canada.

(b) Allocations to Provinces and Indian States were made on the basis of statements of expected shipments of motor vehicles furnished by importers month by month. Out of the expected shipments of 8,714 motor cars during the six months ending September 30th, 1946, 8,499 were allocated to Provinces and Indian States on the basis of vehicle census figures and the distribution is given in a statement which is laid on the table. The balance of 215 cars which was not allocated was not reported until the end of September, and there was insufficient time to arrange for the allocation of this number before the 1st of October, 1946, on which date control was lifted.

(c), (d) and (e). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to control over distribution of motor vehicles, whereby permits to purchase motor cars were issued under control orders published under the provisions of the Defence of India Rules. With the lapse of the Defence of India Rules, the power to control distribution and price of motor cars vested in the Provincial Governments, and it was for each Provincial Government to decide whether or not to reimpose such control. Control has been reimposed in the Punjab, Assam and the N. W. F. P., Madras continued control for some months but is now understood to have discontinued it.

(f) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on February the 17th, 1947, to question No. 835 by Sardar Mangal Singh.

(g) and (h). A special pool of new motor cars was reserved for members of the Constituent Assembly (including those who were members of the Central Legislature also) who did not possess cars and who had attempted without success to obtain permits from Provincial or State Motor Transport Controllers of the Province or State concerned. The decision to reserve these cars was taken on August the 22nd, 1946, at which time the distribution control had only a short period in which to run, and it was considered that members of the Constituent Assembly, who were expected to have to spend the greater part of the year in Delhi, would need special facilities to purchase motor cars for their use.

Statement showing the allocation of cars that were expected in the country during the period April to September 1946

Name of Province or State	Country of origin		
	U. K.	U. S. A.	Other countries
<i>Provinces.</i>			
Bombay	476	35	123
C. P. & Berar	83	5	24
Bengal	393	48	68
Bihar	106	7	40
Assam	60	5	38
Orissa	20	2	8
Madras	282	26	127
Punjab	126	13	47
Delhi	105	43	35
U. P.	141	14	43
Sindh	148	11	18
Baluchistan	36	2	8
N. W. F. P.	23	1	10
Ajmer-Merwara	19	1	7
Coocherg . . . . .	..	..	1
	1,948	213	597
<i>Indian States.</i>			
Hyderabad	63	6	28
Kolhapur & Deccan States	12	..	7
Baroda Western India & Gujrat States	91	1	21
Mysore	92	5	34
Madras States	57	2	16

Name of Province or state	Country of origin		
	U. K.	U. S. A.	Other countries
Punjab States	10	2	10
Rajputana States	133	1	9
Eastern States	15	2	1
C. I. States	54	2	16
Gwalior, Rampur and Benares States	20		9
Jammu & Kashmir	8	1	11
Kalat	1		
Sikkim	1		
	557	22	162
Total	2,505	235	759
		3,499	

Note.—Twenty five per cent extra was allocated to Delhi over and above the quantity which would have been due to this Province according to the Vehicle census, on account of the larger official population as compared with the small size of this Province.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that since this control has been lifted the prices of cars have increased so much that black-marketing is going on and nobody is able to get cars at the prices which are fixed by the producers?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I understand that prices higher than control prices have been charged in certain cases but the remedy, I think, is in the hands of purchasers themselves because the control prices are announced from time to time in newspapers and if anybody is charged higher than the control price I think he ought to report it to the distributor concerned and to the Motor Dealers Association.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that black-marketing in new cars is going on in Delhi under the very nose of the Honourable the Transport Member, may I know whether he is prepared to reconsider the question of re-introducing permit system at least in the province of Delhi.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The general question of re-imposing control raises rather difficult constitutional points because if the Central Legislature is to acquire powers for resuming control, it would be necessary to put through parliamentary legislation vesting the Central Legislature with that authority, but motor cars are not one of the articles which are included in the parliamentary legislation which was put through in February 1946. Recently a reference was made to the Secretary of State to include further articles in this legislation, but the Secretary of State has replied that there is not enough parliamentary time for putting through legislation. As regards the particular point which my Honourable friend raised, it is open to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi Province to re-impose control if he likes, but personally I think this control would be ineffective because the two maritime provinces of Bombay and Bengal, which are primarily concerned with import, have no control and the neighbouring province of U. P. has no control, so any control which may be introduced by the Chief Commissioner of Delhi is not likely to be effective.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Assuming that the Chief Commissioner of Delhi re-introduce control, is it not a fact that cars arriving in New Delhi will be sold to *bona fide* buyers under a system of permit? How does the Honourable Member say that it would not be operative?

Mr. President: It is a matter of argument

Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (h) of the question, the Honourable Member stated that a certain number of cars were reserved for members of the Constituent Assembly and Central Assembly. May I ask whether these cars were reserved only for members of the Constituent Assembly who were also members of the Central Assembly or for members of the Central Assembly also, because no such circular has been circulated to members of the Central Legislature?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: A special pool of new motor cars was reserved for members of the Constituent Assembly many of whom happen to be members of the Central Legislature.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that many of us cannot get new cars, may I ask whether the Honourable Member would be prepared to consider the question of allotting a certain number of cars to such members who need them from the stock which is lying with the Disposals Department?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should like to look into that question, although I am not sure whether any action can be taken.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member give us an idea of the amount of money that will be sent out of the country in purchasing these cars and if he is satisfied that car is such a useful thing that so much money can safely be sent out for it?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: He has got a new car

Shri Sri Prakasa: No, I have not.

IMPORT OF PETROL.

905. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Transport please state separately the number of gallons of petrol imported into India during the first and second halves of the year 1946, giving the names of the countries and the quantity imported from each of them?

(b) What is the number of gallons expected to be imported into India during the first half of the year 1947?

(c) Is it a fact that the petrol situation in India has improved in view of the demand of the military having been considerably reduced?

(d) If so, what is the reason for continuing petrol ration in India?

(e) How long will this continue?

(f) Are Government aware that the shortage of petrol for civil consumption is retarding the resumption of peace time activities in commerce and industry, and if so, do Government propose to review the whole question?

(g) What are the difficulties on account of which the control continues, and what steps are being taken to overcome such difficulties?

(h) Is it not a fact that control has been lifted in some other belligerent countries?

(i) Are Government aware that the Honourable Members of this House do not receive any petrol when the Assembly and Select Committee meetings are not in session? If so, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Iran—1st half of 1946, 492,22,670 gallons, 2nd half 894,05,960 gallons; Bahrain Islands—1st half 1946, 148,48,040 gallons, 2nd half 88,06,790 gallons.

(b) 760,75,550 gallons.

(c) Yes, but the reduction in military oftake is not sufficient to bridge the gap between the present rationed consumption and the estimated unrationed demand.

(d) The reasons are substantially the same as those explained in the Press Note published on the 3rd August, 1946.

(e) It is not at present possible to give any indication of the date from which it will be possible to withdraw petrol rationing.

(f) Yes. The question is constantly under review and petrol rationing will be discontinued as soon as circumstances permit.

(g) The present limiting factors are inadequate transport capacity and storage facilities within the country. Every effort is being made to overcome these difficulties.

(h) Government understand that certain of what were formerly belligerent countries have withdrawn petrol rationing, but except in the case of America, there are believed to be other factors which virtually operate to restrict the amount of petrol used.

(i) It is presumed that by 'petrol' is meant the supplementary, as opposed to the basic, ration of petrol. From the beginning the supplementary ration allowed to Honourable Members has been calculated on the basis of the number of days on which the House will sit or the Honourable Member concerned will have to attend a Committee meeting, but it is now being considered whether calculation on a flat monthly basis during the session would not be preferable.

Seth Govind Das: Can Government give any approximate date by which Government can at least expect to remove this control on petrol?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am afraid I am not in a position to indicate any exact date.

Seth Govind Das: Approximate date.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Even an approximate date I should not commit myself to. The whole thing depends on the provision of transport facilities. What we are doing now is to arrange for the importation of sufficient tank wagons, and I expect fair quantities of these wagons to be delivered from the beginning of 1948, but it will not be possible immediately after that to remove the control.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that larger quantities of petrol are expected in the first half of 1948, as the Honourable Member has said, may I know whether he is prepared to consider the question of increasing substantially the basic ration of petrol?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The position is that at present the quantity of petrol which is consumed in the country under the rationing system is considerably higher than pre-war consumption. Our estimate is that if you increase the ration or if you remove the control, the demand would be such that it would be difficult to meet it out of the expected supplies.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (i) of the question, and in view of the fact that Honourable Members of this House do not sit at home when the Assembly is not in Session, may I know why they should not be given supplementary ration on those days when the Assembly is not in Session?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is the sort of basis on which we are attempting to revise the ration to Honourable Members.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member whether this decision will take place after the session is over and before the next session takes place so that by that time the Government will have removed the control entirely?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will try to expedite it.

Mr. Mann Subedar: If the major difficulty is that of tank wagons, may I know why Government will not try and relax if not remove altogether the control at the principal ports, where, I understand, the supply of petrol is available in adequate quantities.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not sure that will solve the problem that we are considering.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member whether he has enquired from the ports if there are some times tankers waiting to unload their petrol, because they have no other capacity and they have to wait for ten to fifteen days till the capacity is available?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not worried about the question of tankers: I am worried about the question of tank wagons.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that at the ports there is not enough storing capacity?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is also quite true.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: If that is a fact, will the Honourable Member see that the control in ports is removed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is not possible to remove the control in one place and retain it in another.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that any amount of petrol can be had by anyone who needs it in the blackmarket, would the Honourable Member kindly explain the value of the control that has been imposed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: My view with regard to many forms of control is that by retaining control you are choosing the lesser evil of the two.

REMOVAL OF CONTROLS ON FOOD, CLOTH ETC.

906. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state the approximate time when controls on food, cloth and other necessities of life will be removed?

(b) What steps have been taken by Government to stop corruption resulting from these controls?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) The existing controls over foodgrains and other essential commodities will have to be maintained so long as the present acute shortages last. It is not possible to say with any degree of certainty when the necessity for these controls will disappear, but they are constantly under review and a number have recently been removed or relaxed. For example, silk and wool have been de-controlled completely, and the control over newsprint has been relaxed. The control over certain oils and oilseeds has been removed with effect from the 5th March 1947.

(b) As the Honourable Member is aware a bill for the more effective prevention of bribery and corruption has already been passed by the House during this Session.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member whether these controls are removed after consulting the trade?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: All considerations are taken into account.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: My question was whether these controls are removed not after consideration as the Honourable Member has replied but after consulting the trade organisations, such as the Indian Merchants' Association or the Muslim Chamber of Commerce?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: There is no specific consultation provided but we have certain advisory bodies on which both the trade and the consumers are represented.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Government consider the question of removing all controls except those on foodstuffs and cloth?

Mr. President: I believe there is a cut motion on this subject and the Honourable Member will get a full statement at that time.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know what has been the effect of the removal of the control on oilseeds on the prices of oilseeds?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: In some areas the prices have gone up and in others they have shown a downward tendency.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Honourable Member has realised that in reply to the question he is now making the fallacy called *petitio Principii* (arguing in circles) You say that the control should continue so long as there is shortage and we say that the shortage will continue so long as the Food Department continues to exist.

Mr. President: Next question.

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS OF THE CASH AND PAY DEPARTMENT OF THE O.T. RAILWAY

907. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether the newly appointed Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway was responsible for laying down rules of procedure and giving directions for 'Security Arrangements' as a result of the change in the management and organisation of the Cash and Pay Department? If not, who was the officer responsible for seeing to the security arrangements for the custody of cash safes reaching Gorakhpur Railway Station with the earnings of the Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that on or about May 1946 the earnings of a large number of stations aggregating about Rs. 50,000 (fifty thousand only) were stolen while the cash safes were stored in the station building without guard? If so, what are the details of the occurrence and what action has been taken against those responsible for it?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member's reference to security arrangements relates to the custody of travelling cash safes. If so, the change in the management and organisation of the Cash and Pay Department on the O. T. Railway involved no change in those arrangements. The Commercial Department of the O. T. Railway was responsible for them.

(b) No. The amount lost was Rs. 20,851-0-6.

The cash safe in question arrived at Gorakhpur on the 23rd May 1946 and after examination of the seals was stored by the Assistant Station Master, Cash, in the Station Strong Room, which is at the west end of the station building and adjoins the Assistant Station Master's office. The entrance to the Strong Room is barred and a chowkidar is posted on duty day and night outside the Strong Room. When the Cash safe was opened on the morning of the 24th May 1946, it was found that the twine binding the cash bags with the station seal had been cut and the cash from 81 stations amounting to Rs. 20,851-0-6 was missing. The police were not able to trace the culprits.

The disciplinary action to be taken against the staff responsible is under consideration.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether in this railway the cash and pay department is operated by the railway itself?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, by the Railway.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If that is so, may I know whether the cash deposit or the daily collections are not despatched to the head office day to day?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, they are despatched every day to the cash office. On the O. T. Railway I believe there is only one cash office, which is located at Gorakhpur.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Did the theft occur in the cash office itself?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It occurred at Gorakhpur Station.

THEFT OF RAILWAY EARNINGS AT ALLAHABAD AND GORAKHPUR

908. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that a theft of Railway earnings similar to that which occurred at Gorakhpur and which is referred to in the preceding question occurred at Allahabad also at about the same time?

(b) Were both these cases reported to the Railway Board and if so, when?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A theft of railway earnings occurred at Allahabad on the 12th March, 1946.

(b) Yes; on the 25th May, 1946 and 20th March 1946 respectively.

SHORTAGE OF PASSENGER TICKETS ON O. T. RAILWAY

909. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if Government are aware that on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway there was shortage of passenger tickets on many sections between March and October, 1946 and that tickets were issued on animal way bills, luggage way bills, excess fare receipts and that finally when these books were exhausted, passengers boarded train without tickets or tokens of any kind?

(b) Is it a fact that in numerous cases tickets for as many as 60 to 80 passengers were issued on one luggage way bill or animal ticket?

(c) Are Government aware that such bookings render checking impossible and for this reason a blank paper ticket on that Railway is limited to five persons only?

(d) Is it a fact that the loss to the Railway by these irregular bookings and travelling without tickets amounts to several lakhs?

(e) Do Government propose to investigate the matter and make a statement of the total loss?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government are aware that owing to circumstances beyond the Railway's control, printed passenger tickets were in short supply on the Oudh Tirhut Railway between March and October 1946 and that in consequence paper tickets had to be issued. Government are not aware that passengers were allowed to travel without tickets.

(b) Yes, in a few cases paper tickets had to be issued to groups of passengers numbering from 60 to 80.

(c) Government appreciate that ticket checking is rendered extremely difficult by the issue of paper tickets covering a large number of passengers, and in normal circumstances this is not permitted.

(d) and (e). It is possible that some passengers were able to evade payment and some loss was caused to the Railway on this account. Loss arising from evasion of payment of fares by ticketless passengers who escape detection cannot, however, be evaluated with any precision but I will examine the possibility of arriving at an approximate estimate.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know if any steps were taken to put these groups of 60 or 80, persons who had been given jointly one single ticket, in one compartment and if they got separated what steps did Government take to bring them together.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The point really centres on the question of ticketless travellers. I am not aware what exactly was the arrangement with regard to the accommodation of these passengers.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (a) of the question, may I know what were the special circumstances which led to the shortage of passenger tickets?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The real reason was that there was a large increase of passenger traffic during the past two or three years and the railway printing presses, which were working with old and tired machines, were not able to cope with the extra work. What we have done since then is to order more machines, work the existing machines in two and sometimes in three shifts and also to enlist the services of private presses.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Government enquire whether passengers boarded trains without tickets or any other tokens?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have no definite information but I agree with the Honourable Member that it is quite possible that ticketless travelling occurred during this period.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to my supplementary question, will you permit me, Sir, to explain. Sixty to eighty persons are grouped together and a single Joint paper ticket is issued for all. They subsequently get separated while travelling. What I wanted to know was whether Government or the Railway Administration concerned, take any steps to try to keep this group that has been given a single ticket in one place on the train; and if they get separated what efforts do they take to bring them together. If some are left behind what steps do they take to take them to their homes?

(No answer was given.)

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether this deficiency has been made up or if the deficiency is still existing, whether it is universal on all railway administrations and how long this deficiency will continue?

Mr. President: I think this question was discussed fully during the general discussion on the Railway budget, when the position regarding the shortage of tickets was explained. There is no use pursuing the matter again on every occasion.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: May I know whether in view of the emergency measures taken by the Honourable Member tickets are now made available in adequate quantities?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think the position has very greatly improved.

SALE BY DISPOSALS DEPARTMENT OF GALVANISED PIPES AND BENDS

910. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state how much in book value, did the Disposals Department have in galvanised pipes, bends and connections, how much has been disposed off, and how much still remains?

(b) In view of the extreme shortage of building material, do Government propose to consider the desirability of selling these galvanised pipes and bends only to those who are actually building?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) The book value of galvanised pipes, bends and connections declared for disposal, disposed of and still available for disposal is Rs. 4,81,478; Rs. 40,120 and Rs. 4,41,858 respectively.

(b) Galvanised pipes and fittings are controlled and their distribution is regulated under the provisions of the Iron and Steel Control (of Production and Distribution) Order, 1941. That is to say, issues are made against permits to

ultimate users on certification of essentiality of demand by Central, Provincial or States Governments. At present no releases are being made to dealers or merchants.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know whether these releases are made first to the Provincial Governments and if they refuse then they are released to the public?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: There are priorities well understood which have been explained more than once, as to the respective claims of Government, States, public and so on. That is being followed here too.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Part (b) of Mr. Subedar's question was whether in view of the shortage of the building materials for the use of the public it would be possible for the Honourable Member to release all these materials immediately for the use of the public.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The suggestion is, I understand, that private building should be given priority over everything else. It is impossible to do that. The priorities have been fully considered on their merits and fixed and I do not think that any case has been made out for alteration. The public demand for housing comes through the provincial quota for that purpose.

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that even the Provincial Governments are not getting their full quota and there is complaint in this respect at least from my province, the Central Provinces?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: On account of the shortage of supply, the quota allotted for public consumption through the Provincial Governments has not been fully satisfied recently, but every effort is being made to reach up to the quotas.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: With regard to the supply of galvanised pipes, bends, fittings, etc., may I know whether more difficulties are not felt by the agriculturists for meeting the needs of their agricultural operations such as pumping and water supplies requiring these things, and whether no supply has been secured for them for the last one year through the Government of Madras?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The primary question was with reference to quantities administered by the Disposals Department. The present question is more extensive and is intended to cover all supplies in the matter of steel and iron. The answer is this, Sir. There was recently a conference in which the claims of the Agricultural Department, who represented the claims of the rural population just now referred to by the Honourable Member, were fully considered, and a satisfactory arrangement has been made by which the rural population gets a fair and adequate quota out of the amount available.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know whether provincial quotas have been fixed for the distribution of these materials or whether they are given to the Provinces where they are lying?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I would like to know, Sir, whether he is referring to the disposals matter or to the general supplies.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is referring to disposals.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: They are not disposed of wherever they are lying. They are taken as a whole and disposed of by the Department after examining all prior claims.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I wanted to know whether they are distributed among the Provinces and whether some quota is fixed for each Province.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: This is given outside the quota fixed for the Provinces, Sir.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Does the arrangement satisfy the Agriculture Department?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The Agriculture Department made a long list of claims and they were examined interdepartmentally at great length, and the impression left in my mind is that it was a satisfactory arrangement.

DISPOSAL BY GOVERNMENT OF TEXTILES, CLOTHING, ETC. DIRECT TO THE CONSUMING PUBLIC

911. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state how much in book value did Government have of textiles, clothing and wearing apparel, whether ready-made or otherwise and how much has been disposed of, and how much still remains?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of making these available to the consuming public direct, instead of letting such materials go into the hands of merchants?

(c) If not, do Government propose to open depots or appoint agents for the disposal of these things directly to the consuming public?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) A statement showing the position of Disposals Textiles as on the 15th February 1947 is laid on the table.

(b) Yes, Sir. In the case of all items except cloth suitable for the civil market it is found that sales through Provincial and State agencies will be impracticable. The Government of India therefore do not propose to make any change in the present method of disposal of textiles. Provincial Governments and States through whom cloth suitable for the civil market is being disposed of will no doubt take steps to make it available to the consuming public in the manner best suited to the Province or State.

(c) In view of what has been stated Government do not propose to open depots or appoint agents for direct sale.

Disposal position on 15th February 1947

	Tot. l reported		Tot. l sold		Total unsold balance	
	Qu antity	Book v lue in crores	Quantity	Book value in crores	Quantity	Book value in crores
Cloth	{ (a) 57768807 yds. (b) 61776125 yds.	4.3154 1.4538	46845173 yds. 59925463 yds.	3.4320 1.4110	10824634 yds. 1850662 yds.	-5664 -0423
Dunlop (C. nvis)	9247980 yds.	1.7031	4272377 yds.	0.7500	4975603 yds.	-9531
G ments	14035024 nos.	2.1638	8068516 nos.	0.8396	7966503 nos.	1.2242
Y-m	17300000 lbs.	0.2800	1291505 lbs.	0.1980	438495 lbs.	0.052
Sewing T.rod	10640102 reals.	0.6470	3390680 reals.	0.2000	7249122 reals.	447
Webbing, T po, Nowsar, Concage		1.8258	....	1.3616		-4640
Grand Total	...	12.3919	....	8.2126	....	4.1793

(a) Cloth suitable for civil market.

(b) Other cloth.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that vests and drawers sold by the Disposals Department at 4 annas and 5 annas are being sold at Rs. 1-8-0, Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 in the retail market, and if that is so, would Government, for the balance of such ready-made clothing that may be with them, consider the desirability of opening a sales depot at principal centres and let the public buy at 4 annas and 5 annas or even at a higher rate making provision for the charges of disposal and distribution?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Sir, the question of disposals should not be dealt with on only one ground in this manner. The aspect of speed is far more important in the matter of disposal of these surplus stores.

With regard to the particular kind of material referred to by the Honourable Member, I should like to give these facts so that the position may be understood. There is an outstanding of about eight million in numbers of this category of made-up garments valued at approximately Rs. 1.82 crores. Four million numbers of this are covered by the Report for Khaki Drill Shorts worth approximately Rs. 90 lakhs. Out of this quantity, approximately 1,200,000 have been accepted by the Provinces. Against the balance of 2,800,000 approximately 6,000 have been sold through the shop window. The balance has been offered to the purchaser of Twill striped shirts at our reserve price of Rs. 8 or above. The balance of garments have already been put out in an all India tender by advertisement. It has been agreed that subject to the price being fairly reasonable, the highest tender should be accepted. If, however, in the opinion of the Textile Commissioner and his Joint Financial Adviser prices of certain items are ridiculous they would negotiate with a view to getting higher prices. If the garments will not be saleable in India, they will be offered for export on the same lines as canvas.

I might add this, that it is possible to make a very good bargain if I sit at the shop window and sell them all one by one. But it will take at least a few years before we come to the end of this disposals business. It is not possible. We have to deal through the trade and those who will finance and distribute it. Whatever evils exist in the matter of distribution in other lines they apply to this also.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Talking of speed of sale, have Government considered that when the material is sold to a trader by highest tender, the quantity that is sold is withheld from the market, because these materials are capable of being stocked for two or three years, and that the aspect which strikes us in this House is that this ready-made garment should be made available for the direct user as early as possible, and whether Government cannot now reconsider their policy with regard to the disposal of these ready-made garments so that they could reach, at the earliest possible moment, the hands of the man who is going to wear it?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I do not wish to be a party to converting Question Hour into a debate. Sir, I have great respect for the Honourable Member, but the matter will have to be looked into and cannot be easily disposed of by an answer.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the lower staff generally fixes the price of this material? It is well known that Government is in a hurry to dispose of these things and so bribery is going on as far as the lower staff is concerned?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The allegations may be true up to a small percentage but I repudiate the general suggestion.

PERCENTAGE RISE IN PRICE OF IMPORTED PLANT AND MACHINERY AND LOCOMOTIVES AND WAGONS

912. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether Government have compared the prices

of materials, that were imported before the War, with those at which they are now imported, with reference to (i) Plant and Machinery for textiles, (ii) Plant and Machinery for other trades and (iii) Railway Locomotives and Wagons?

(b) If so, what are the relative figures and what is the percentage of rise in the prices of these categories?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b). Two statements giving the required information in respect of (1) Plant and Machinery for other trades and (2) Railway locomotives, are laid on the table of the House.

No orders for railway wagons have been placed since the end of the war and hence the question of the comparison of the pre-war and present prices does not arise.

As regards plant and machinery for textiles, it is not possible to give figures for each type of machinery imported, as numerous parts are involved. In the case of spinning machinery which is the most important item of cotton textile mill equipment, the information is that prices ruling now are approximately 165 per cent. above the prices ruling in 1939. This figure is based on the average prices of the various items of machinery involved and may be taken as representative. The increase in the prices of looms varies from 100 to 150 per cent. over 1939 prices according to the types of the looms.

STATEMENT I.—Plant and Machinery for 'Other Trades'

S. No.	Item	Pre-war price approx	Post-war price approx	Rise
		Rs.	Rs.	
1	Road Rollers	15,500	29,000	87·1%
2	Concrete Mixers	3,525	6,200	75·9%
3	Oil Engines	3,365	4,450	29%
4	Electric Fans	88	134/8/	51%
5	Electric Motors	576	700	21%
6	Lang 8" Centre Lathe	9,470	19,716	97·7%
7	Churchill Redman 9" Centre Lathe	6,640	11,295	70·1%
8	Dean Smith & Grace, 8½" × 8' Lathe	7,525	15,520	106·2%
9	Dean Smith & Grace 10" × 10' Lathe	8,595	16,850	96%
10	Dean Smith & Grace 12" × 10' Lathe	12,675	26,625	110%
11	Herbert No. 4 Capstan Lathe	7,100	10,785	52%
12	Axle Journal Returning Lathe	23,475 (Noble & Lund)	33,660 (Oilfield & Schofield)	43·4%
13	Canadian Machinery Corporation Crank Pin Turning Machine	48,700	82,180	68·7%
14	Butler 2½" Axle Box Planing Machine	16,542	29,964	81·2%

S. No.	Item	Pre-war price approx	Post-war price approx	Rise
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
15	(a) Butler Planer 10' x 3' 6" x 3' 6"	42,386	63,270	49%
	(b) Stirk Planer 10' x 3' 6" x 3' 6"	..		
16	Butler 18" Stroke Crank Shaper	4,182	7,184	71.8%
17	K. & W. 3' 6" Radial Drilling Machine	5,760	8,120	41%
18	Asquith 4' 6" Drilling Machine	8,400	11,332	35%

Note:—As 'Other Trade' is too wide a term, information in respect of a few random samples alone is given.

Statement II—R. Ilwuy Locomotives

Locomotives ordered and received pre-war, from the U. K.		Locomotives of comparable types ordered from abroad post-war		Rise in cost
Class of loco	Average cost per ton of weight of the erected loco	Class of loco on order	Estimated cost per ton of the weight of the erected loco	
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.		Rs.	
XP	1405	W. P. Passenger Broad Gauge (from U. S. A.).	3703	164%
XP	1405	W. P. Passenger Broad Gauge (from U. K.).	3110	121%
HPS	1059	Beam 4-600 Passenger Broad Gauge (from U. K.).	3158	198%

Note:—It is usual these days to include an escalator clause to cover fluctuations in price levels etc. Therefore, if manufacturing costs rise, the costs shown in col. 4 will also be higher.

Mr. Mann Subedar: In view of the fact that it is reported that in foreign countries and more particularly in the U. K. there are consultations and pooling of prices to be quoted to the trade in such cases as the textiles, the printing trade and so on, will Government consider whether the Indian purchases could also not be pooled with a view to gain some bargaining power and prevent more money going out than is necessary?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Yes, Sir, the question will be considered but I warn the Honourable Member that it may cause delay and private industrialists may object to it also.

INCREASE IN THE PRODUCTION OF CLOTH

913. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the present state of the Textile Industry in India and what steps Government propose to take for increasing the production of cloth in the country?

(b) What are the factors which have contributed to the fall in production in recent months?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 17th February 1947 to Question No. 340 asked by Shri D. P. Karmarkar.

OIL EXTRACTING FACTORIES IN INDIA

914. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil-extracting factories in India;

(b) whether Government are aware that the increase in the number of these factories has tended towards the extinction of the *ghanis* in the rural parts of the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to decentralise the oil-extraction industry by discouraging oil-mills and encouraging the *ghanis* in the villages?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) Exact statistics are not available, but it is estimated that there are 700 oil extracting factories in the country.

(b) In the absence of reliable statistics of quantities crushed in oil factories and *ghanis*, Government is not in a position to state whether the increase in the number of factories has tended towards the extinction of the *ghanis* in the rural parts of the country, but it is likely that the increased number of factories would have crushed more on seeds with the result that the quantities crushed by *ghanis* decreased.

(c) This is a matter which rests with the Governments of various Provinces and States.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has Government no policy at all in regard to the encouragement of *ghanis*?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: The general policy of the Government is to encourage the crushing of oilseeds in the country both at the oil extracting factories and at *ghanis*.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that five million people are employed in the *ghani* industry, as disclosed by the Census report, will not Government consider the advisability of giving first priority to the encouragement of these *ghanis* in preference to the oil extracting mills?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: Government consider that both types of oil crushing should be encouraged in so far as they are suitable for local conditions.

PRODUCTION BY HANDLOOM

915. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government propose to take to give the hand-loom industry its due place in the industrial economy of the country;

(b) whether Government propose to arrange for an All-India Census of the hand-loom industry with a view to frame a scheme of ordered production from the hand-looms to the best national advantage; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the feasibility of prohibiting the mills from producing particular types of cloth and earmark those types for production only on the hand-looms?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) The Government of India as well as Provincial Governments have done a great deal in recognition of the place in the industrial economy of the country of the cottage weaving industry. We have the All-India Handloom Board for looking after this important industry.

(b) Several provincial Governments are carrying out censuses, and the Honourable Member is referred to Appendix XXVII of the report of the Fact-finding Committee on Handlooms and Mills published 1942.

(c) The problem is not of protection of the handloom against mill production but of increasing the total production which is considerably short of the increasing demand. Government cannot think of prohibiting anything now. They are considering the question of regulating types of production in mills so as to increase the total supply of cloth to the masses.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will Government be pleased to review the distribution of the quota of yarn to provinces according to their necessity for handloom, particularly in those provinces which are dependent more on handloom cloth than on mills?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: The quotas have been fixed after considerable calculation but if Honourable Members will give me any data for revising them, I will have it looked into.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do Government make periodical reviews of the allocations made?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: Periodical reviews of allocations do not appear to me to be necessary. The number of handlooms do not change so rapidly and when once an allocation is made, if there is anything wrong, it has to be corrected but a periodical review is not indicated by the circumstances.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the former five lakhs annual grant or subsidy to the handloom industry has been stopped this year, will Government consider the advisability of making a suitable development grant to this industry in order to help its development?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: The five lakhs grant was linked to a duty on foreign yarn that had been imposed at the time many years ago. Later the origin of this grant was lost sight of and it was treated as an ordinary development grant. Five lakhs for all India for handlooms is a ridiculously small amount and today the position is that there is a general development grant for many items according to plan. It is considered that it should be part of the general development grants made to various provinces and this question is receiving the attention of my department. The Finance Department thought that it was an unscientific grant and hence it was stopped.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member made reference to the All India Handloom Board. May I know whether Government are considering the advisability of providing organisational representation to the weavers on this handloom board, instead of simply giving representation to hand-picked people?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: The Board will deal with very general matters and not with matters of intimate daily administration. The provinces will have to look into this kind of matter. On the question of general policy, very good representation, I find, is secured for the handloom industry on this Board but if any particular suggestion is made by the Honourable Member it will certainly be taken into consideration, as there is room for co-option.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that while they are willing to nominate me as a member but not accept me as the organisational representative of the All India Handloom Board?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I do not know the merits of this particular question.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a definite finding of the Fact Finding Committee appointed in 1943 that there are in this country a very large number of idle handlooms which require yarn for their work and that if yarn is supplied to them the cloth situation would improve to a very considerable extent?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I am quite aware of the facts apart from the finding in that Committee's report

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

POSITION REGARDING COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

916. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state the policy of Government in respect of the cottage industries?

(b) Do Government propose to arrange for a survey of the present position of cottage industries with a view to placing them on a more stable basis?

(c) What facilities do Government propose to provide in respect of (a) Raw materials (b) Knowledge of technique of manufacture (c) Finance and marketing?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to co-ordinate the efforts being made by Provincial Governments for the promotion of cottage industries?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) The Government of India attach the utmost importance to the development of cottage and small-scale industries. The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the circular letter issued to the Provincial Governments a copy of which was placed on the table in reply to Prof. N. G. Ranga's starred question No. 1292 on 27th March 1946

(b), (c) and (d) The responsibility in this respect is that of the provinces. The inherent character of cottage industries also points to the provincial governments as the most proper authorities to deal with the subject. All Provincial Governments have included in their development plans schemes for the development of cottage industries.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF HAND SPINNING THROUGH ALL-INDIA SPINNERS ASSOCIATION

917. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether Government propose to encourage hand-spinning in order to make up the deficiency in cloth now prevalent in the country?

(b) If so, whether Government propose to do so directly or through the agency of the All-India Spinners Association?

(c) Do Government propose to ascertain as to what types of cloth could be suitably manufactured from hand-spun yarn in order to meet the immediate needs of the people?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b). Rural and cottage work of this nature are essentially Provincial Government functions. The desirability of encouraging hand-spinning on an extensive and well-organised basis is beyond question. As Honourable Members will be aware, a great deal has already been done in this direction in various provinces.

(c) The organisations who are working at handspun handwoven cloth do not stand in need of any technical advice from the Government of India as to types of cloth which would meet the requirements of the people.

OVER-CROWDING ON THE PATNA-GAYA SECTION OF E. I. RAILWAY

918. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that almost all trains on the Patna-Gaya Section of the East Indian Railway are over-crowded?

(b) Do Government propose to increase the number of trains to relieve the over-crowding?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of passenger trains at present running on this branch is the same as it was before the war.

The primary responsibility of the Railways is to restore all train services which were cancelled during the war. The introduction of additional services will be considered after this has been done.

EXPRESS TRAIN BETWEEN DELHI AND MADRAS

919. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: (a) With reference to the answers to starred questions Nos. 368 and 383 given on 11th November, 1946, regarding the running of a fast Express train between Delhi and Madras, will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the question of starting a fast mail service between Delhi and Madras has been re-examined towards the end of last year and if so, with what result?

(b) Are Government aware that in spite of improvement in the factors which were stated to be contributing to the late running of the Grand Trunk Express, this train still often runs very late?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of appointing a Committee of the Madras members of this House to suggest ways and means of reducing the time taken by this train to run between Madras and Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The question of introducing a fast mail service between Delhi and Madras has recently been re-examined in consultation with the Railway Administrations concerned. It is not yet possible to provide the necessary coaching stock for this service nor will this be possible until stock has been provided to restore the train services curtailed during the war which is the primary responsibility of the Railways.

(b) As stated in the reply to starred question No. 383 on the 11th November 1946, among the factors militating against the punctuality of this train are heavy loads, poor quality of coal and heavily taxed engines which are no longer in first class condition. These factors continue to operate.

(c) Government do not consider this necessary as improvement in the running of this train receives the constant attention of the Railways concerned and suggestions in regard to its running could be discussed by representatives of the interests concerned at the meetings of the Local Advisory Committees of these Railways. I may, however, add that any suggestions received from Honourable Members of this House will be forwarded to the Railway Administrations concerned for examination. Meanwhile the question of reducing the overall time taken on the run by the Grand Trunk Express is already under examination by the Railways concerned.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON METHODS OF DISPOSAL

920. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state—

(a) whether the report of the Commission which was appointed to enquire into the methods of disposals has been received and considered by Government;

(b) if so, the changes that have been effected in the method and procedure of disposals as a result of this report;

(c) whether Government are aware that disposals are now made in bigger lots; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of selling in smaller lots so that Government may get higher value for the disposals?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b). It has been received. It has not yet been considered by Government. The Disposals Board will first examine and make their recommendations shortly after which Government will

(c) and (d). Disposals are effected in lots considered suitable from all points of view, such as nature of stores, urgency of removal, etc. Generally, however, for every big lot, several smaller lots are disposed of. Thus, small buyers also have their opportunities. The representatives of U. K. Government who were in India recently laid great stress on speed being more important than good bargains.

GAZETTED OFFICERS IN DELHI RATIONING DEPARTMENT

921. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state:

- (a) the number of Gazetted Officers in the Delhi Rationing Department;
- (b) how many of them are Muslims and how many Hindus; and
- (c) the number of Gazetted Officers belonging to each of the following communities who have been discharged or dismissed since the creation of the Department: (i) Hindus (ii) Muslims (iii) Sikhs?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

	Hindus	Muslims	Others	Total
Strength of Gazetted Officers	25	11	3	39
Number of Gazetted Officers dismissed or discharged		Nil	...	
	2	3	1	6

PRICE OF HIDES FOR MADRAS TANNERS.

922. *Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether it is a fact that His Majesty's Government intend to stop the present system of purchase of E1 tanned kips in Madras and that in the near future the Madras exporters will have to revert to the pre-war system of sending their half-tanned leather to England for public auction there?

(b) If so, are Government aware that this would result in the Madras tanners having to effect purchases without knowing what their sale prices would be, and would therefore try to pay the lowest possible price for the hides that they purchase here?

(c) Are Government aware that the finished leather produced in England from E1 tanned kips is sold at a much lower price than the leather produced from similar raw hides exported from here, on account of its inferior quality?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) So far as our information goes it is not the intention of His Majesty's Government to stop the present system of purchase of E. I. tanned Kips in Madras.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India do not believe that the finished leather produced in England from E. I. tanned Kips is considered to be inferior or sold at a lower price than the leather produced from similar raw hides exported from this country. It is wrong to describe the E. I. Kips as half tanned. Finishing and dressing apart, the Kips are fully tanned. Pending improvement of the leather industry in India, Government consider it very wrong to discourage this very important industry of South India the product of which is 40 per cent. utilised indigenously and 60 per cent. exported

EXPENDITURE ON 'GROW MORE FOOD, CAMPAIGN

923. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state what amount, if any, has been allotted by the Government of India during the last three years to different Provinces to assist them in carrying on the 'Grow More Food' campaign and what proportion of total expenditure was borne by each Province?

(b) Has the above campaign resulted in a progressive increase in the output of foodstuffs and for how long will the campaign be carried on?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: (a) A statement showing the loans and grants sanctioned by the Central Government for the Grow More Food Campaign in Provinces is placed on the table of the House. The Central Government's share of the expenditure on schemes approved by them is 50 per cent. of the cost incurred by the Provinces except in the cases of Assam, the N W F. P. and Orissa where it is 66½ per cent.

(b) A statement is placed on the table showing the average production of the more important foodgrains for each province in the years 1936-39 and 1942-45. It shows that there was an increase of three million tons a year. This is due in part to better harvests and in part to the Grow More Food Campaign. The figures for 1945-46 are also given which show a drop of nearly two million tons below the pre-war average due to a very bad monsoon in the greater part of the country. It is proposed to continue this campaign till 1951-52.

Statement showing the loans and grants sanctioned to the Provincial Government upto the 15th January, 1947, for the Grow More Food Campaign

No.	Name of Province	Amounts Sanctioned	
		(Loan)	(Grant)
1	Assam	34,47,122	29,16,163
2	Bengal	1,68,37,300	1,12,99,445
3	Bihar	9,64,000	59,62,151
4	Bombay	17,22,500	1,31,09,166
5	C. P. & Berar	1,48,16,986	45,69,901
6	Madras	1,91,87,500	2,99,58,830
7	N. W. F. P.	26,90,300	20,20,202
8	Orissa	53,69,832	36,44,556
9	Punjab		80,11,950
10	Sind . . . . .	..	12,62,087
11	United Provinces . . . . .	..	68,29,950
	Total	6,50,34,440	8,95,74,373

Production of principal foodgrains in the reporting areas of India
(Thousand tons)

	RICE				WHEAT		JOWAR		
	Normal Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	Average 1942-43 to 1944-45	1945-46	Normal Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	Average 1942-43 to 1944-45	1945-46	Normal Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	Average 1942-43 to 1944-45	1945-46
<i>Temporarily Seeded Areas</i>									
Assam	792	865	839	5	9	7	3	8	3
Bombay	1,692	1,794	1,823	311	271	245	1,376	1,303	713
C. P. & Berar	55	64	65	648	461	433	1,001	1,174	1,023
Coorg	4,582	4,897	3,627	18	12	12	1	6	6
Delhi	347	421	454	259	264	254	1,221	1,090	736
M. W. P. P.	447	551	688	3,451	3,871	3,248	11	10	11
Punjab	2,001	1,751	1,853	348	458	374	94	119	119
Sind	9,949	10,313	9,349	2,647	2,619	2,305	101	130	96
U. P.				7,687	7,965	6,878	428	561	553
Total							4,236	4,301	3,354
<i>Permanently Seeded Areas</i>									
Assam	1,797	2,006	2,016						
Bengal	8,802	9,755	9,597	44	50	42	2	2	1
Madras	3,052	2,970	2,460	418	474	353	17	18	18
Orissa	15,178	16,042	15,369	403	526	397	29	28	27
Total	25,137	26,355	24,708	8,160	8,491	7,275	4,265	4,329	3,381
Total Br. India									
Increase (+) or decrease (-) over 1936-37 to 1938-39 in		(+) 1,228	(-) 419	..	(+) 341	(-) 875	..	(+) 64	(-) 964

	BAJRA			RAGI			MAIZE		
	Normal Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	Average 1942-43 to 1944-45	1945-46	Normal Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	Average 1942-43 to 1944-45	1945-46	Normal Average 1936-37 to 1938-39	Average 1942-43 to 1944-45	1945-46
<i>Temporarily Settled Areas</i>									
Ajmer Merwara	1	4	1	..	..	..	11	10	7
Bambay	436	576	342	185	186	163	58	42	23
C. P. & Berar	25	31	22	..	..	..	61	55	36
Coung . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dal	8	16	12	..	..	..	1	(a)	1
Indra	672	576	346	786	761	533	31	21	11
N.W.F.P.	19	23	17	..	..	..	216	202	285
Punjab	273	573	572	..	..	..	394	501	529
Sind	13	199	104	..	..	..	1	1	..
C. P.	324	180	550	..	..	..	623	945	930
Tot l	1,861	2,583	1,916	971	947	686	1,416	1,777	1,782
<i>Permanently settled Areas</i>									
Assam . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bangal	1	1	( )	..	..	..	23	44	41
Bihar	23	19	19	189	154	139	428	463	373
Orissa	1	1	1	70	61	60	7	7	7
Tot l	23	21	20	239	215	199	456	514	421
Tot l Br. India	1,886	2,604	1,936	1,210	1,162	885	1,872	2,291	2,203
Increase (+) or decrease (-) over 1936-37 to 1945-46 in	..	(+) 723	(+) 100	..	(-) 68	(-) 335	..	(+) 419	..

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[13TH DECEMBER, 1947]

	BARLEY			GRAM			TOTAL		
	Normal Average 1935-37 to 1938-39	Average 1942-43 to 1944-45	1945-46	Normal Average 1935-37 to 1938-39	Average 1942-43 to 1944-45	1945-46	Normal Average 1935-37 to 1938-39	Average 1942-43 to 1944-45	1945-46
<i>Temporarily Sailed Areas</i>									
Ajmer Merwara	12	19	14	3	4	3	34	54	35
Bombay	5	4	2	91	82	56	3,254	3,229	2,383
C. P. & Berar	3	3	3	205	206	213	3,655	3,724	3,352
Coorg	..	..	..	..	..	..	65	64	65
Delhi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
M. dis.	5	6	4	14	16	26	47	56	61
N. W. F. P.	60	39	64	27	21	27	7,304	7,327	5,462
Punjab	183	235	172	656	970	1,119	582	559	393
Sind	4	8	5	51	96	96	3,403	6,090	6,213
U. P.	1,347	1,424	1,451	1,650	1,681	1,492	1,075	1,443	1,333
Tot. l.	1,614	1,738	1,715	2,728	3,088	3,041	9,063	9,571	9,159
							30,472	32,717	29,681
<i>Permanently Sailed Areas</i>									
Assam	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,797	2,006	2,016
Bengal	31	45	34	79	130	109	8,835	10,027	9,854
B. P.	438	409	393	439	465	401	5,002	4,973	4,186
Orissa	()	1	()	2	2	2	1,618	1,593	1,366
Tot. l.	419	455	357	520	597	512	17,399	18,596	17,332
Tot. l Br. India	2,083	2,193	2,112	3,258	3,685	3,553	47,871	51,115	46,013
Increase (+) or decrease (-) over 1935-37 to 1945-46 in	(+) 331	(+) 110	(+) 29		(+) 427	(+) 295		(+) 3,244	(-) 1,838

(a) Below 500 tons.

STANDARD OF VISION FOR SUPERIOR SERVICE RAILWAY CANDIDATES

924. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the standard of vision prescribed for candidates for superior Railway Services including the Commercial and Establishment branches is much higher than the standard prescribed for other similar services under the Government of India?

(b) Is the same standard of vision prescribed for the Transportation and Traffic branches of the Railway Service also prescribed for the Commercial and Establishment branches? If so, why?

(c) How many candidates were disqualified on account of their failure to pass the requisite Railway sight test in the competitive examinations for I.A. and A.S. held in 1944-45 and 46?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, the standard is higher

(b) Yes. The same standard of vision is prescribed for the Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial Departments as officers of the two departments are interchangeable. So far as the Establishment Department is concerned, the same standard of vision as for the Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial Departments was adopted at the commencement as it was decided to make use of the same method of recruitment, including medical examination, as existed for officers of the Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial Departments. The question whether a separate standard of visual acuity should be adopted for candidates of the Establishment Department is under consideration.

(c) The number of candidates not fulfilling the requisite railway standards of vision in the medical examinations held following the combined competitive examinations in 1944 and 1945 were 32 and 55 respectively out of a total of 118 and 218 candidates who were examined. No competitive examination for recruitment to I A S and allied services was held in 1946.

REMODELLING OF TELlichERRY RAILWAY STATION

925. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) the present position of the pre-war proposals to remodel the Tellicherry Station on the South Indian Railway;

(b) whether the re-modelling of the Ottapalam Station on the same railway is under consideration; if so, the cost of the same;

(c) whether Government have examined the relative importance of these two stations in point of passenger and goods traffic receipt, population and commercial importance; and

(d) whether priority will be given to the remodelling of the Tellicherry Railway Station? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The remodelling of Tellicherry station has been included in S. I. Railway's Post-War Plan for the year 1949-50.

(b) The remodelling of Ottapalam station has been included in S. I. Railway's Works Programme for 1947-48. The estimated cost is Rs 2,69,000.

(c) and (d). Yes. The remodelling of Ottapalam is more urgent than that of Tellicherry from the point of view of traffic working. Ottapalam is on the main line between Madras Central and Cochin Harbour Terminus and its importance has increased from the point of view of train working with the introduction of the Cochin Express which passes from Ottapalam to the Shoranur-Cochin Branch without touching Shoranur.

RISE IN PRICE OF EDIBLE OILS.

926. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the price of edible oils is rising to a high level; and

(b) whether Government are aware that this abnormal rise in price is due to hydrogenation of the edible oils, if so, whether Government propose to take steps to prohibit the process of hydrogenation, in view of the fact, that the process enhances the price of the oil?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) Yes, Sir, but in certain areas the prices have recently shown a downward tendency.

(b) The rise in price cannot be related to the hydrogenation of edible oil required for Vanaspathi industry. The steepest rise in price is in respect of mustard oil which is not used for vanaspathi at all and the quantities required for it have not increased in proportion to the increase of oil prices.

PROHIBITION OF EXPORT OF OIL SEEDS, OILS AND OIL CAKES.

927. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state if Government propose to prohibit the export of oil seeds, oils, oil-cakes, as also the manufacture, import and distribution of hydrogenated oils?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Export of oil cake is banned altogether. Export of oils and oilseeds is confined to varieties in which India is surplus and is limited in quantities. This export is also necessary to obtain foodgrains and other essential supplies required for India.

The reply to the second part of the question is in the negative.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF CULTIVATION OF COTTON.

928. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state whether Government are aware that in view of the high prices of food-grain the cultivator is not giving due attention to the cultivation of cotton?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to encourage the cultivation of cotton with a view to decreasing the shortage of cloth?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Government are aware of the fact that the cotton acreage has decreased from about 24 to about 15 million acres.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

INCREASE IN PAY OF COOLIES OF THE GENERAL STORES, N. W. RAILWAY,
MOGHALPUAR

929. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) whether it is a fact that the coolies of the General Stores, North Western Railway, Moghalpura are, recruited on a wage of annas nine per diem and that they reach annas eleven per diem after some 30 years approved service, if so, whether Government propose to make necessary changes in the old scale of wages to suit the present hard conditions of life,

(b) whether it is a fact that the Lme-Delivery coolies who distribute stores on this line, have to work day and night remaining on duty for weeks and having no time or place for cooking their food and sleeping, and

(c) whether it is a fact that the grade of their pay is Rs. 22—1—30, if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of increasing their pay and offering them necessary facilities for cooking meals and sleeping at night?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government are informed that coolies in the N. W. Railway General Stores are recruited on an initial pay of annas nine per day in the scale nine annas—one anna—eleven annas per day (Revised Scale). Accordingly, they reach the stage of annas eleven per day after two years' approved service and not after 30 years' service. The corresponding old scale of pay is ten annas—one anna—twelve annas per day. In addition to pay, the staff concerned are at present in receipt of dearness allowance and interim relief. As regards the latter portion, I would remind the Honourable Member that the scales of pay of railway staff are subject to revision as a result of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission.

(b) No. Government understand that this class of staff are not required to work for more than 84 hours a week and that facilities for cooking and sleeping are provided for them in the Stores vans attached to the Store delivery trains.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. The question of revision of the scales of pay of the staff concerned will depend on the recommendations of the Pay Commission and Government's decisions thereon. As regards facilities for the cooking of meals and for sleeping, the question does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) above.

EXEMPTION FROM CONFIRMATORY TESTS OF PROMOTED INFERIOR SERVANTS IN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

930. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that during the last war some inferior servants, e.g., Daftries etc., employed in certain subordinate offices of the Posts and Telegraphs Department were promoted to clerical appointments against vacancies existing in these offices,

(b) whether Government are aware that these officials were subjected to a preliminary qualifying test,

(c) whether Government are aware that in accordance with the recent award of the Adjudicator in the dispute between the Posts and Telegraphs Department and its employees, such of these officials as have rendered one year's satisfactory service, are to be confirmed in their appointments as clerks after passing another test;

(d) whether it is proposed to exempt some of the aforesaid class of employees from the confirmatory tests,

(e) if the reply to part (d) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for this discrimination; and

(f) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of issuing necessary instructions to all concerned dispensing with the need for this confirmatory test in the case of all the officials referred to in part (a)?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: (a) Suitable departmental candidates were eligible for promotion on selection purely as a temporary measure against twenty per cent of the vacancies.

(b) The candidates were required to pass a simple test before selection.

(c) The subject did not arise from the award of the Adjudicator, but in accordance with the assurance given to the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union, it was ordered that such of the officials as had rendered one year's consecutive service in the clerical cadre on the 15th September, 1915 and had earned fully satisfactory reports, may be appointed on probation to that cadre; confirmation in these posts depending upon their passing the usual confirmation examination prescribed for all clerks within three years of the date of appointment.

(d) No. The confirmation examination applies to all candidates and is different from the qualifying test for selection. The confirmation examination is intended to test the knowledge of the candidates in the departmental rules and procedure.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No. In view of the answer to part (d) of the question it is considered that the holding of the confirmation examination is necessary in the interest of efficiency.

APPLICATION TO DELHI OF THE PUNJAB WILD BIRDS AND WILD ANIMALS PROTECTION ACT.

981. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state why the Punjab Wild Birds and Wild Animals Protection Act, 1933, has been made applicable to the Province of Delhi?

(b) Are Government aware that since the application of the above Act to Delhi, the number of wild animals and birds have increased considerably and consequently the loss by damage to fruits, crops, etc., by wild bears and other wild animals and birds has increased?

(c) In view of the scarcity of food-stuffs in this country, do Government propose to consider the advisability of suspending the operation of this Act in the Province of Delhi and also provide more facilities to poor agriculturists to possess fire-arms for the protection of their crops?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The Act was made applicable to Delhi in 1934 in order to protect wild birds and wild animals and to prevent their extermination.

(b) There is no evidence of any such increase of loss and no allegations to that effect have been received by Government.

(c) There appears to be no case at present for suspending the operation of the Act. Applications for the grant of licences for firearms for the protection of crops are considered on their merits. Only four such applications have been received since 1945 and all of them have been sanctioned.

RUNNING OF THROUGH TRAINS FROM JAMSHEDPUR AND BARKAKHANA TO PATNA.

982. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the desirability of running through trains from Jamshedpur and Barkakhana to Patna; if so, when and if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Traffic offering at present does not justify the running of a through train between Patna Junction and Tatanagar (Jamshedpur), but a through carriage providing accommodation for first, second and intermediate class passengers has been running between Patna and Tatanagar since 28rd December 1946.

The restoration of the Patna-Ranchi through train terminating at Barkakhana has been accorded a high priority by the Railway Administration and this train will be reintroduced as soon as the necessary coaching stock becomes available.

RATE OF PAYMENT FOR WORK BY CONTRACTORS IN RAILWAY COLLIERIES.

983. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether all Contractors for raising coal from Railway Collieries are allowed the same rate of payment for work done by them and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: No Sir. The rates vary slightly depending on the conditions of work at each colliery and the responsibilities assumed by the contractor.

NUMBER OF SPINDLES IN TEXTILE FACTORIES IN INDIA.

984. *Mr. Vadihal Lalubhai: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) the number of spindles in the various textile factories in India working in day shifts and night shifts separately, year by year, from the year 1939 up to date; and

(b) the number of looms working in day shifts and night shifts separately, year by year, from the year 1939 up to date?

Rajagopalachari:

available in the form desired by the Honourable Member. A statement is placed on the table which shows the average number of spindles and looms working during the period from 1939 to 1946, and another statement illustrating the number working in each shift during January 1946.

of spindles and looms working duly during 1939-46

Year	Spindles	Looms
1939	8,986,371	183,332
1940	8,847,326	178,842
1941	9,083,046	184,258
1942	9,165,812	184,665
1943	9,402,397	186,992
1944	9,493,784	189,241
1945	9,466,098	190,601
1946	9,546,295	186,505

	First shift	Second shift	Third shift
Spindle	9,573,728	7,871,854	984,656
Looms	192,414	144,438	5,411

**HOARDING AND PROFITEERING PREVENTION ORDINANCE IN CENTRALLY
ADMINISTERED AREAS.**

935. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance is still in force in the Centrally Administered Areas, and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to repeal it?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes

(b) Yes, Sir. In view of the fact that the Ordinance has ceased to have any operation in Governors' provinces since 1st October 1946 Government will take steps to bring it legally to an end in centrally administered areas also.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FILLING ON TEMPORARY BASIS OF VACANCIES IN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

80. Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state whether Government are aware that a ban on confirmation was imposed by the Government of India in their Home Department letter No. 70/12/42-Ests, dated 29th June 1942 in regard to persons appointed in vacancies arising during the war in the Central services from the date of those orders?

(b) Are Government aware that a number of vacancies were existing in the Posts and Telegraphs Department before that date and were filled purely on temporary basis?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to fill such vacancies by the appointment of candidates placed on the waiting lists as a result of the Competitive Examinations held in 1942 and 1943? If not, why not?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member presumably refers to permanent vacancies. All such vacancies existing before 29th June 1942 were ordered to be filled permanently by candidates who were placed on the waiting list before that date.

(c) No. Those recruited subsequently to 29th June 1942 were given clear warning that their appointments will be temporary and they are entitled to only 30 per cent of vacancies reserved for temporary staff.

ALLOTMENT OF COAL FOR TOBACCO CURING PURPOSES IN MADRAS CIRCLE

81. Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the tobacco growers of West and East Godavari Districts have requested the Central Excise Department to constitute their districts as an independent circle for coal distribution and separate them from the Guntur Circle?

(b) How much coal has been allotted per annum to these two districts for tobacco curing purposes?

(c) Are Government aware of the inconvenience caused to the tobacco growers of these districts, by their having to depend upon the wholesale and retail coal agents of Guntur District?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of separating these two districts from Guntur and constituting them as an independent circle and also of permitting them to obtain coal directly from the Collieries?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) No, Sir. No such representation has been received by the Central Excise Department.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) No separate complaints to this effect have been received from tobacco growers of the East and West Godavari Districts. But representations against the method of supplying coal through distributing agents have been received from the Andhra Provincial, the Bapatla Taluk and the Ongole Tobacco Growers' Associations. These are under consideration.

(d) The responsibility for the detailed distribution, including the machinery thereof, of the monthly quota of coal for tobacco curing was transferred to the Government of Madras sometime ago for the areas under their jurisdiction. Their views on the Honourable Member's suggestion have been invited and the matter will be further considered on receipt of a reply. I would point out, however, that the tobacco curing season is now drawing to a close and any new arrangements made can be introduced only with effect from the next season.

MESSAGES FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following two Messages have been received from the Council of State First is as follows:—

"The Council of State at its meeting held on the 11th March, 1947, agreed without amendment to the Bill further to amend the Delhi Muslim Wakfs Act, 1943, for certain purposes, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 14th February 1947"

The second Message runs as follows:

"The Council of State at its meeting held on the 12th March 1947 agreed without amendment to the Bill to make provision for the investigation and settlement of industrial disputes and for certain other purposes, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 21st February 1947"

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd*

SECOND STAGE—*contd*

DEMAND No. 55—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES—*contd*

Policy in regard to Control of Articles other than food—contd

Mr. President: The House will now resume the consideration of the cut motion moved by Prof. N. G. Ranga to discuss the policy in regard to controls of articles other than food.

Chaudhry Sri Chand (Nominated Non-Official) (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the English translation given below—*Ed. of D*.)

Sir, there are two objects for which Government imposes Controls. Firstly, that the prices may not increase abnormally, secondly, that everybody should get according to his share. But, the way in which the controls are carried out secures neither the first nor the second object. So far as prices are concerned experience has shown that prices rise rather than fall by control. When an article is brought under control its first effect is that people think that the article will not be obtainable in future and it should be purchased in as great a quantity as obtainable and stored. On the other hand, shopkeepers who have a stock of the article, try to lade the whole stock to sell it in the black market. Its absence from the bazar, therefore, enhances its price. Fixing the price on paper does not reduce the price of an article. I will just give you an instance with regard to sugar. U. P. sends sugar to the Punjab at the control rate of Rs. 18 per maund but, when it reaches the Punjab the control which is imposed upon it by the Punjab Government and the way in which it is distributed and obtained raises its price to not less than Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per maund. If a person wants to purchase ten to twenty seers of sugar he is, in the first instance, to go to the *Lambardar* for inquiry, if it is a village he will then go first to the *Patwari* and then to the *girdawar* for attestation. Then he goes to the *Tahsildar* in the town who is sometimes away on his own tour and sometimes on tour with the Commissioner and again sometimes he is in attendance on a Minister who happens to visit the place. Thus the villager has to run after him for three or four days before he gets the permit for 10 or 20 seers of sugar. He then goes to the Permit *Munshi* and finally to the shopkeeper. This man is very shrewd. He knows that the villager, if delayed in the town, will have to spend more. So he says that he has not got the required quantity of sugar and requests him to come the next day or the day after the next. The villager entreats him and the shopkeeper after a lot of haggling says that he has only 17 seers and if it is very urgent he could give him that. The villager seeing no other way agrees. Thus after paying one rupee to the *Patwari*, one to the *girdawar* and one to the Permit *munshi* he gets 17 seers of sugar for a permit of 20 seers. In this hustling about he loses his work and time, not to mention his self-respect. Thus, poor

villagers never get sugar at the control price given on the paper. It is for the self-satisfaction of the Government that they have fixed the price at Rs. 18 per maund. The people who purchase the article, however, know that they never get it at Rs. 18 but at Rs. 50 per maund. This is how the price control by which Government desire to reduce the price of an article, works.

The second object of the Government by the imposition of control is that everybody should get his share. You can see that the way in which the distribution is made is not at all right. I have come to know about the Punjab Government that there an individual in the village gets 2 chhataks of sugar per month while in the town it is 15 chhataks. I fail to understand the kind of justice on which this distribution is based that a man living in a town should receive 15 chhataks while a man living in a village should receive only 2 chhataks. Again, a man living in the town receives 18 yards of cloth while one living in the village receives only 9 yards of it annually although the townsman wears a *topi* made of 4 *guas* and a *pyjama* made of $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards of cloth while a villager wears a *dhoti* and a *safa* each of 10 yds. of cloth. I do not know how the Government have come to the decision to give 18 yards of cloth to the town people and 9 yards to the villagers annually. It is sheer injustice. Let us now see the order of the Government regarding the profit on sugar. The *chand-crope* who sells sugar in the village is ordered to sell it at a profit of only 5 annas per maund. He has to spend rupee one and annas eight in carrying it to the village and he is ordered to charge only a profit of 5 annas per maund. Nobody will be foolish enough to pay Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ in the cartage and charge only 0-5-0 per maund as profit. Government have full knowledge that the man will not sell the article at the proper rate. It is well aware of the man's dishonesty. The fellow sells sugar at a higher profit. After a few months control authorities arrive and they order the cancellation of the shop's license. In short nobody gets either sugar or cloth. Three persons get three yards of cloth. A *dhoti* is made up of 5 yards. Now how to distribute this cloth in the family to make *dhotis*? This way of distribution is not at all right nor does it raise the standard of life. Thus both the objects of the control are absurd.

It has become a fashion in these days to do whatever one desires under cover of doing good to the poor. If a man says that he desires to do good to the poor and in order to raise the standard of their lives he wants to make them eat wheat he can do whatever he likes under this cover. Let us now examine the rates.

Sugar Rs. 18 per maund,

Red Sugar Rs. 20 per maund

Gur Rs. 24 per maund

These are control rates. Now tell me who will eat gur and Bajra when their rates are so high? In the Punjab people are forced to eat rice while in Bengal they are forced to eat wheat which is not their staple food. These are the blessings of the control. I fail to understand you when you say that nobody has yet represented to the Government to remove the control. The members in this House are silent because they have got their Interim Government. Muslim League people are silent because they have got Liaquat Ali Sahib among them and the Congressites are silent because their members are in the Interim Government. Otherwise, I have heard in the lobbies that they are all against the control and all desire its abolition. I do not know why Government insist to keep it. Allow me to say that control is a curse. There is no benefit but trouble in it. Yet they want to keep control. The reason is that the Interim Government knows that in India some people eat pure wheat, some eat it mixed with gram and others eat *Bajra*, *Jawar* and rotten wheat. But here first class wheat is sold at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee and

[Chaudhry Sri Chand]

the rotten wheat also is sold at the same rate. Coarse grains are sold at the price on which first class wheat is sold. I want to tell you that this is the way in which the standard of life of the poor is being raised. They will have to eat sugar whether they have ever eaten it or not. They will have to purchase two chhataks of it no matter if they later sell it in the black market. It is the order of the Government that he should have it whether he has ever eaten or not. Thus, the standard of their lives is raised. This sort of orders should not now exist. If our Government is fond of controls it should control the beggars whose number is so great. Go and see at the railway station the crowd of these beggars. They are so numerous that one gets bothered by them. Some beg in the name of the nation, others in the name of poverty, others in the name of some leader and yet another in the name of Bengal. Thus, they plague people, but the Government have never given a thought to stop them. Villagers come to the City and see the Council Chamber they think that their country is very prosperous and great men live there but they never take into consideration about its worries and troubles. If the Government is very fond of control, it should control the Radio Department. It is not the Radio Department, it is the Department of *Raudes* (harlots). They laugh at the people of the villages but the mimic shows, which are now no longer shown in the villages are still being put on upon the Radio. Their information is so little that they call me Pandit in spite of the fact that I have written them that I am not a Pandit, I am a *pat* but they go on calling me Pandit. I do not know how they take me for a Pandit—is it for my *safa* or for some other reason? If the Government want control, it must control corruption and the great Departments so that some benefit may come out of it. The present controls are a source of trouble to the people. For these reasons I support Prof. Ranga's *ent* motion. In my opinion every member of the House should lend his support to it. Government may not do it for fear otherwise all the members are in its favour.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder (Salem and Coimbatore *cam* North Arcot, Non-Muhammudan Rural). Sir, I wish to say a few words on this Motion because I learn that my *Cut* motion will not come up for discussion. I wish to refer to the controls that are being worked out in my Province of Madras. My province is praised for working controls effectively and it is foremost in controlling every article used by man. I can only come to the conclusion that this sort of praise is given to Madras simply to encourage the Government of Madras to put forth more efforts in making more and more control. This sort of praise comes from the Central Government. If you ask the public of Madras what they think about these controls, they will have a different tale to tell. My colleague Mr. Ramalingam Chettiar put a question the other day and the Food Member answered that the Central Government was going to pay a subsidy of 15 crores for purchase of rice from Burma. Then the Government of India are going to distribute that subsidised rice at a fixed rate of price to all the provinces of India. We also heard that last year the Government of India spent about 100 crores of rupees in importing food grains from other countries. We also hear that large sums of money have been spent on 'Grow More Food Campaign'. In spite of all these expenditure, neither the agriculturist grows more food nor is the Government giving an economic price even for the produce which the agriculturist grows.

Mr. President: I may point out to the Honourable Member that the *Cut* Motion under discussion raises the question of policy in regard to controls of articles other than food. So the Honourable Member will not be relevant, if he refers to food controls.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: What I wish to submit is that we want no controls at all, on any things while there is no justification for keeping control over food. I was only pointing out the colossal waste of money on the

part of the Central Government without any adequate return for the agriculturist or for the consumer. The agriculturist is not benefitted nor are the Government in utilising the money in this way. These controls specially affects the rural population and they stand to suffer. As my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga pointed out the other day the urban people are very vocal and their grievances are soon redressed and the urban people are better cared for by this Government. The rural population suffer in so many ways. The rural people do not get proper food, they do not get the necessities of life. Owing to controls of every article the rural people being very poor and illiterate are not able to get any thing at all except at black market rates. They specially require manure and cattle food for agricultural requirements. The price control is not at all worked satisfactorily. From all parts of this House, there is always criticism about the way in which controls are exercised to the detriment of people, specially rural people. The other day some of the Madras Members and the Bihar Members interviewed the Food Minister. The Honourable Member asked us if we could guarantee there will be no death by starvation if control on food is removed. I remembered on a previous occasion, he cited the example of two wives represented as the interest of producers and consumers. When we represented our difficulties, then this example of two wives came to my mind. We, on one side, being the one wife and on the other the Secretariat officials the other wife representing in a different way.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural): The mistress is more loved than the wife.

Sri V. C. Vellinguri Gounder: Whenever we make any representation, the Officers in Food Secretariat come forward with huge files and bring in all sorts of obstructions and statistics to confuse us and the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari (Member for Industries and Supplies): Is the Honourable Member referring to the Food Department? There is no one to represent the Food Department.

Mr. President: I already invited the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that we are discussing controls other than on food. I wish to see how he proceeds with the point.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I should like to suggest to the Honourable Member that he should not go into the subject of food.

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: On a point of order, Sir. You have already pointed out that the subject matter under discussion is controls other than food.

Mr. President: The result will be that the Honourable Member will be traversing into a field which will not be relevant, and he will not get a reply to that.

Sri V. C. Vellinguri Gounder: Everywhere the control prices are fixed and if you go in for outside produce I do not know why uniformity cannot be observed in buying from other countries also, when there is the world food conference and other things. A good deal of the taxpayers' money is being uselessly spent on subsidies, if the controls are abolished all this money will not be wasted. We approached the district authorities and after a good deal of argument we were able to convince them that these controls should be abolished. They referred the matter to the Revenue Board and an officer came to make inquiries, and in spite of the arguments of every one including the District Officer control was enforced or recommended. When we go into the question Government shows us the difficulties of the poor people, but we here represent the case only in the interest of the poor people and not in our own interest. The conclusion to be drawn is that an army of officers and staff from the district right up to the centre have to be maintained and provided for;

[Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder]
 that at least is my experience from the work of the Madras Government. When the district authorities are to be consulted officially we surely cannot expect the Collector to go against the wishes of his superior officers. In the last war our deficiency was only the matter of food. With regard to steel and iron it is insufficiently produced in India and some control may be justified. In the first war we were short in rice and Government supplied that deficiency from Burma and there were no black markets and no monopolies and no such controls and deterioration of stuff, etc. and they exist now speaking of my own place in this last war we were in the midst of military camps and we saw huge bags of food stuffs stored improperly and much food material was wasted. When there was war, controls in certain things might be found necessary but it is more than a year the war was over. We are short in food and iron; and they may be secured from outside and given to deficient provinces like Bombay and Madras and States like Travancore and Cochin. Why should there be this control and this army of officers? For a man of the village to get food and other controlled things is very difficult. He perhaps lives ten miles away to get his quota he has to go 15 miles to get a permit for transport of his produce or get a controlled thing. I know that in the urban areas people with influence are able to get all that they require in spite of the controls. There is no such control with regard to rice, steel and kerosene in which we are short they can be got from outside and distributed to the several traders, specially in deficient areas. Where there is regular trade between one province and another and there is a surplus available in one province, normal trade channels should be given facilities. What is required is transport facilities which Government will have to provide in time. If the controls are lifted it will not lead to starvation as in Bengal, even if there is failure of rain for one year in certain parts. So these controls should go. I have heard the Industries and Supply Member saying on certain occasions that he is not in favour of the controls, and the Food Member also is of the view when we met him in deputation that these controls should go. So these controls should be done away with and provision should be made for getting steel, kerosene and rice in which we are deficient and supplied in normal trade channels. Sir, I support the motion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, I do not wish to keep the House long. I do not desire to create or allow an impression to be created that the Assembly as a whole, on account of the number of speeches made, is against these controls. From the trend of speeches I gather that the grievance is more against the administration of these controls than against the policy. There I agree. The administration is a legacy from the war period and our Government have not had time yet to overhaul the entire structure. There are political and other difficulties in the provinces and also in the centre, and in spite of the age and experience of the Honourable Members who grace the Cabinet I do not think they had the time to think over the administrative side and overhaul the administrative machinery. But as regards policy my Honourable friend with all his wit and humour wants to see bright things through non-coloured glasses wherever it is dark, but the Honourable Member really wants to see the dark side of the picture through his dark glasses. He is estimating the situation more correctly than my Honourable friend who sees even the darkest side in his humorous vein as a light one.

Now, let us take these things one after another. What are the things under control? Take kerosene first. It is said if you remove the control, kerosene will automatically flow like ganges in the villages. Food may be available in the villages, it can be produced, but is kerosene produced in the villages? Kerosene goes from the top through various channels to the town. Kerosene and cloth are sold only in towns and to villages.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammedan Rural) What?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I will tell you; they are sold to villages. My Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, in his enthusiasm forgets the language that I used: they are sold to villages, but are not sold in villages. The whole complaint is this: we have not forgotten that we belong to the middle class here. To rural classes we give our lip sympathy.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In my place, which is lit by electricity. I want kerosene for various purposes. My Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, is labouring under the same difficulty. If the control is removed, I will purchase ten tins for my own house, where I am getting half a bottle per week now, and villagers will not get anything.

Shri Sri Prakasa: No.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is only because of control that they get something. We are doing lip sympathy, my Honourable friend is the owner of 200 villages and therefore I won't accept all this from him. I don't mean to say that he is dishonest, he is subconsciously a capitalist. I know the difficulty, there would be a sugar supply for all these villages. I had to fight over the question of distribution of kerosene to villagers. There was a quarrel between the villagers and townsmen. I made a compromise—for huts one unit, for terraced houses two units in villages, where towns are lit by electricity, give half a unit. Today we are speaking in their name, not on their behalf.

Now, take sugar. My Honourable friend says that villagers are not having sugar, although many villagers take it. Then he complains that because sugar is controlled therefore it is not produced in abundance. I come from a district where plenty of sugarcane is grown, and my complaint is that sugarcane is grown at the cost of cereals, where foodgrains have to be grown, they are growing sugarcane. Jaggery yields much larger prices than either sugar, or cereals or rice. I wanted the Provincial Government to take power to regulate the acreage under crops other than cereal crops. They have not done so. Today if you remove all controls over this and allow sugar to come into the market and sugarcane to be grown freely, I can assure you, Sir, you and I will only have to eat sugar and drink sugar juice. There will not be any wheat or rice in any corner of this country. My Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, has said as soon as controls are removed all these things which are controlled will come out like ghosts, all these things which have been suppressed and are in the underground for blackmarketing purposes will suddenly jump up. I am very sorry there is bad logic in this. Have you taken statistics of agricultural production in this country? Has it increased? My Honourable friend, Mr. Gounder, wants us to go back twenty-five years but he forgets that in these twenty-five years he has produced ten children and one hundred grand children! The population has increased.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Have control on that.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammedan Rural) It is too late now!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: To poor people unfortunately God has given plenty of children; the lower the standard, the bigger the family.

Therefore, Sir, I am opposed to removing control with regard to sugar.

Cloth: It is true that raw cotton before the war was being exported to Japan and we were receiving 25 per cent of our cloth from Japan and Manchester or Lancashire. Now that cotton is not readily being sold to Japan, my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, is anxious that the cotton prices should

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]
go up. How long are we going to say that we must send away raw produce to foreign countries and then import their cotton cloth and other things? Should we not manufacture things ourselves. We must industrialize our country and use even the short-staple cotton completely for making our country self-sufficient, and we should even capture the markets which were originally flooded by Japanese goods. The Eastern market is thrown open to us, the Western market is there, but we are applying our minds in the wrong direction. Our capitalists—I have no quarrel with capitalists and millowners but I must say that industrialists are not real industrialists, they are *baniyas*—did not know how to use the short-staple cotton before the war. It was being exported to the Continent of Europe, and Germany was mixing up short staple cotton with long staple cotton and was thus converting all short-staple cotton into fine thread and was exporting it to our country. Some such thing must be done, research must be made in that direction. I would be glad if all our raw produce is utilized in our own country. If controls are removed, I would say that in the long run our country will go to ruin both in the external market and in the internal market. The only question is how to increase the production. When the production is increased, these controls may be removed, but it will be a long time before this can be possible.

Even as regards sugar I do not know if sugar magnates are here, but as the House knows we have imposed restrictive duties on the import of sugar. If tomorrow control is removed and Java is allowed to import sugar, I and my Honourable friends would ask for protection again. I want control both internal and external. If you take one step it has got various repercussions. We only look at one aspect and say today we have not had enough sugar for tea or coffee, and therefore this control should be removed. I am very sorry we are not applying ourselves to the necessity of controls inside and outside in the best interest of the country and in the best interest of the mute and dumb millions who inhabit this country. We have no right to speak in their name. If controls are removed, all the cloth which is available to the poor people, will disappear. Hereafter I will not be satisfied with 12 yards of cloth. I have sufficient money and therefore I won't be satisfied unless I had 48 yards for my family, and so all the rich men will purchase all the cloth and all the poor half-naked will become fully naked and half-starved will become fully starved. You have to vote for this. If controls are removed, this is what will happen. All the difficulty has arisen on account of the Honourable Member himself onwards having said a number of months ago that he was against all controls. It is unfortunate. He was not under control then, he is under control now, he is in the Cabinet; he feels the responsibility now. He has changed his attitude now, he is thoroughly satisfied that controls ought to exist. I agree with him wholeheartedly. Therefore I request my Honourable friend not to press this motion to a division.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division, Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I was rather amused by the remarks of my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar. Does he or does he not believe that it is impossible to enforce control unless the stocks are controlled?

Sriput Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury (Bengal Landholders): And also control corruption.

Mr. President: Let not Honourable Members interrupt the speaker. Let us hear the arguments, if we are serious on the debate.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: This follows will he agree to my postulate or axiom that .

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Koran or the Bible?

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am not quoting scripture. Control of prices without control of the stock is like putting the cart before the horse. What steps have the Government over taken to control the stock? If the control of stock is not a possibility it is useless to make any attempt to control the prices, because by this means we will only increase corruption.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Cloth production, stock, everything has been controlled.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is all on paper.

Mr. President: I would ask Honourable Members not to interrupt. I do not propose to permit it. It would be better for the Honourable Member who is addressing the House to address the Chair.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I love interruptions. I entirely agree with my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa when he said that Prof. Ranga ought not to have excluded food from his cut motion. As I said during the question hour there is difference of opinion between this side and the other side. The other side thinks that the Food Department should exist so long as there is shortage of food and we on this side believe that the shortage of food will continue to exist so long as the Food Department is there. That is what I call *petitio principii* or argument in circle. With this difference of opinion we have no alternative but to request you, Sir, to give your ruling and solve the problem of reasoning in a circle.

My Honourable friend Mr. Sri Chand came to rescue when he said very nicely that control and corruption are the same thing. They are in fact convertible. Where there is control there is corruption. If we agree to this, the problem is solved. The question is whether you want corruption or not. There will be only one reply even from the treasury Benches. We do not want corruption. The logical consequence of that is that there should be no control.

My Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa raised another point. In fixing a reasonable price the cost of production and cost of purchase are taken into consideration. But there is one item of expenditure which is entirely omitted from the calculation and that is responsible for the black market. When a man buys a thing he not only pays the price but there is an enormous overhead charges which can't be shown on paper, and these charges are known as *pugri* in Bombay. It is not that the Government is officially entering into this corruption. There are various other items. My friend Chaudhri Sri Chand gave details of all this expenditure which every shopkeeper has to pay in order to bring the article to his shop. This amount is not really considered when the sale price is fixed. If you add these you will find that it is impossible for him to sell it at the controlled price. The result is black marketing. It is really forced upon the shopkeeper. You create a position on one side where black market is inevitable if the shopkeeper were to make his two ends meet and on the other side you launch on an anti-corruption drive.

Bar Kure Qa'a darya takhta bandam Kaida-i-Baz mirgi ki duman tai makan hoshkar bash

It means "You have really bound me together on a board which is floating on water, and you say 'Be careful, do not get yourself wet'." The only thing that is possible is to leave the country alone and let us follow the natural course and stop all kinds of control and corruption.

There is one point which probably the Government has not explicitly looked into. The food and clothing of different provinces are not the same. The trade has been accustomed to supply the right quality of food and clothing to different provinces. But the officials in the Supply and Food Departments take the pencil and paper and allot whatever food is available to the people who need it, irrespective of their customs, and habit. Wheat is

[Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad:] allotted to Madras where they eat rice and in Delhi where we are used to wheat are made to eat rice. The trade has the experience of centuries behind it and it is not possible for the civilian officials in the department to acquire the experience or knowledge in a few months.

The same is the case with regard to cloth. The requirements of the provinces differ. The trade after the experience of centuries know the requirements of the different provinces but this is entirely overlooked in the Government's programme of control and distribution. They only consider the arithmetic and work out with pencil and paper so much millet for so many people at such and such rate *per capita*. This is a very important factor which should not be overlooked. People in better circumstances require less food but better quality but the labouring classes require more food but of inferior quality. This fact is entirely ignored and no distinction is made whatsoever. This is a thing which the trade has learnt from their experience of ages. Do not fix the quantity. Fix the price. Say you are allowed to buy for so much money. Poorer people for the same amount will get more food and cloth of inferior quality and richer people will get better food and cloth but in a smaller quantity. I have asked many times what is the use of giving sugar to the village people. They are not accustomed to take tea. Very few villagers have drunk tea. Sugar is really essential for tea. For other kitchen purposes sugar is not required. The other varieties of sweet are good enough. Your saying that this should be given to everybody is wrong. The villager will be happier if you give him four times the quantity in gur instead of one-fourth the quantity in sugar for the same price. This is a factor which it is impossible for the Supply Department or the Food Department to consider. You leave the people alone. The trade, from experience, have learnt what particular thing and in what quantity is consumed in a particular locality and the transport also is the minimum. By your methods the transport becomes very great. You insist, for instance, that the quantity of wheat to be supplied to Hyderabad must come from such and such locality. When you say that certain articles to a Province must be supplied from certain sources alone the transport problem gets complicated. And the people have to wait for their supplies till the transport is available. I have said repeatedly that though it is easy to supply foodstuff from one province to another it becomes difficult because they have readily to consider not only the one side traffic but the traffic from both sides. This thing will be automatically adjusted if all these restrictions are removed. The transport difficulties are the creation of the control system. If the control system is abolished transport will be eased to a very great extent, because these things will be shifted where the wagons find sufficient goods on either side.

We could understand the system of controls during war time. We accepted that military requirements should come first and civilian requirements must wait. We abided by it. We said that whatever we grow may go to the soldiers who are fighting in the front and let us have starvation, we did not mind. But when the war is over, when there is no supply of special food for the Defence Services, I see no reason why we should continue the system which we really devised during war time. In war time it was a necessity. But there is absolutely no necessity now to continue it.

I said on the floor of the House on one occasion and I repeat it today: somebody asked on the floor of the House 'How long will controls continue?' I replied 'They will continue so long as they remain a paying concern to the officials'. During the war they kept control in the name of soldiers. After the war they are going to keep it in the interests of the villagers. The first was perhaps necessary. The second is absolutely unnecessary. The fact is they have the system for their own benefit. During the war time they used

the soldiers as the nucleus or fulcrum to press their demand for control. After the war they are now appealing in the name of villagers, and poor people for whom nobody sheds any tears, and in the name of these people they want to keep the controls in order to feed the officials. I was surprised at the speech delivered by my friend Mr. Ayyangar. I have great respect for his views. But I was surprised when he said in the name of the villagers whom he said ought to be fed with at least some sugar, and without these controls they will not be having any sugar. This reminds me of what one of the Moghul Emperors said when there was a great famine. He said 'All right, the poor people must be having one plate of *pulao*'. He is thinking of the sugar for these poorer people and forgets the major question that they do not get what they want. Does he consider it a just system of distribution that Madras should send to us here all its rice that we do not need and we send all the wheat away?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do oppose that all the rice should be sent from Madras to here and the wheat should be transported from here. But even if you get all the wheat from the south, you still have to be on ration. That is my point.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Question. The other thing which I repeatedly said is that if you really want to help the poorer people, increase the supply of cloth by producing more yarn and keep the cottage industries going. Then the poor people will get enough cloth for themselves. As regards food, I assure everybody that there is enough food in the country because I see everyday only a mile away from the town, people are feeding their cattle on wheat. They have no restriction whatsoever. While we cannot get this wheat from the village they are feeding their cattle on it. And we are starving. How can we swallow a distribution of that kind? It is happening only about a mile away from towns. The sooner such distribution is abolished the better, because a distribution of this kind is really a curse of the ...

I think anybody who is familiar with real conditions and who is honest to his voters and who is an elected representative of the people cannot remain without condemning this control system which is really not in the interests of anybody except in the interests of those who are actually administering the

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: non-Muhammadan). (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the English translation given below. *Ed of D*.)

Sir, a great many things have been said and I have nothing new to add. There is, however, one thing which the Interim Government must know. It was a foreign Government which imposed controls and the reason why they were imposed carried some conviction with it. The merchants and shopkeepers of those days all helped the Congress. The Government thought to reduce the influence of the Congress by replacing all that sort of businessmen by a new type. That was thought at that time and it came to be true. Controls came and it is quite correct that they ruined all old businessmen and in their place new type of businessmen came into being. They were brought in by laying down that only those shopkeepers could sell controlled articles who held license and the licence was given to brothers and nephews of the officials or to those who filled their pockets with money. Under such circumstances the Interim Government should have abolished these controls. They should have abolished what the late Government had done. It is very painful to see that the present Government have upheld the old regime. As already said it is a matter for great sorrow. I know that all our leaders who have formed the governments at the Centre as well as in the provinces were of the opinion that controls should be abolished. Many of them personally told me so. Now on taking charge of the government they instead of correcting the officials of the different departments were themselves influenced by them. It appears that

{Babu Ram Narayan Singh}

even the upright men have become the disciples of the officials of the Government. They ought to have reformed these departments, put them on the right path and if they had proved too rotten they should have abolished them. But, instead of doing this they have become their followers. Sir, I am a villager, I know their ease full well. Go wherever you like in India. Go from one corner to the other. You will find everywhere a hue and cry against the controls. The most painful of all this is that we, who sit here in this House, call ourselves the representatives of the people and the present Government call itself the representative Government and yet the controls are maintained. It is no right, under the circumstances, to call itself the representative Government. It should give up this pretension. Let us take votes on what I have said. If you do not want to take votes here let us go to the Country and take vote of the people to see with whom the masses are. If the present Government do not want to go by public opinion it should either resign or do as the people wish. There is no doubt that the cause of controls is corruption. They, however, say that an anti-Corruption Act has been passed. We understand it. They, too, know it full well, but it is a pity that on going into the government they have forgotten it. One day a gentleman from the city took me to the town to show what sufferings people have to bear at ration shops especially at shops where cloth is rationed. I will not repeat what Mr. Mukherjee has already said in this connection. I, however, went because my friend asked me to go with him. I went notwithstanding that I know everything. I went to know what people say. I asked one of them and he said, "Sir, I have been waiting here since morning. I will get when my turn comes and the turn will come" after this and that formalities have been gone through. Then only I will get."

Dr. Zia-ud-Din has said that our country had so many people and that they needed so many things. If they have not the power to manufacture things according to the needs of the people why do they make haste to control them? If they cannot control rightly they should not maintain those controls. I may tell you, in this connection, that the whole country is being given to corruption. In each province, in each district an advisory board is set up, then there are sub-divisional boards and *thana* advisory boards. In every board every member desires that ration shops may be given to his brothers and nephews. Control and corruption are one and the same thing. There is not a bit of difference in them. We must bear this in mind. I will not say much. I know this much when paddy was harvested in our district for two or three days it was seen in the bazars. Previously rice was sold dear. It had reached almost the controlled price. Then police officers came there and forced the shopkeepers to sell it at the control rate. The result was that rice disappeared from the bazar. For what purpose else are the C. I. D. and the police department? Everybody knows that there exist two kinds of markets. One control shop where one cannot get sufficient to eat. Persons like me can live on two or three *chattaks* but many people cannot live without eating 5 to 6 *chattaks*. They have to go to the black market which is open. If the Government is honest why do it maintain controls? Controls have failed. Why do they insist on maintaining a thing which they cannot enforce? They, in fact, do not want to keep them. Sir, I must say that our brothers, the Ministers of the Governments are lost in a labyrinth. I openly request that either Rajaji should proclaim the abolition of the controls today or he should resign. If he persist let a plebiscite be taken. At least take votes from the Delhi masses. You will find that people do not want controls. I can say regarding controls that out of the 80 per cent poor people of the country 79 per cent will vote against the controls when the people do not want controls.

why do Government want to maintain them? This is not proper. Controls must be abolished. It must be announced today that the controls are abolished. If not, a plebiscite may be held. If the masses vote against the controls, you should not thrust them on the people. Government's argument in favour of the control do not seem correct. Sir, I am also a vakil and when vakils agree they try to pass off a sheep as a goat and a goat as a sheep. If the Government are honest and have trust in God; they should not hesitate in announcing the abolition of controls. There is not a single man who can honestly say that controls are needed. Those of us who have gone over to the Government seats are entangled in the meshes of their departments and have become the disciples of their officials. I say it with full emphasis and I hope other members will join me in the protest and Rajaji will announce the abolition of controls. I am sure in the heart of his hearts Rajaji believes that there should be no controls. May be Rajaji may not condescend to lift the controls under pressure of the advice of the officials of his department but he will have to abolish them. If not today after ten or twelve days the controls will have to be removed. Why not remove a thing at once against which there is so much clamour? The Government's argument that there is a shortage in the supply of things is absolutely incorrect. "Unless there is nine maunds of oil Radha will not dance". It cannot be that the country may have all the things in plenty. It is not right to say that the controls will be abolished when shortage of commodities does no longer exist. One or the other thing will be in shortage. There is no doubt that there will be some shortage of commodities for a few days on the lifting of the controls but this will not continue long. The business of the whole country is being ruined in an unnatural way. I therefore support Prof Ranga's Cut Motion. It is not in connection with the articles of food but it is a sin in our country to control the food commodities and those who maintain controls are sinners.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Calcutta Non-Muhammadan Urban). Sir, this motion raises an issue which is very vital to the day to day existence of a citizen. The debate that has so far been raised on it has displayed one thing, and that is the impact which the control system has had on the minds of the Members of the Legislature. I think the Honourable Member in charge of the Department has got some indication of the volume and intensity of the feeling on this question of control. I quite admit that the question bristles with all manner of difficulties. The question may be viewed at from different points of view and it is necessary for us, the Members of this House, to balance the pros and cons of this case with meticulous care and then come to a decision. I think my Honourable friend, the Member in charge of Industries and Supplies, listened carefully to the speech of my Honourable friend Mr Sri Prakasa, who is now busily engaged in talking, in which he made a very passionate appeal to the Treasury Benches to allow them at least on this question a chance to go to its final issue, namely, the final decision in the Ayes and Noes lobbies. My friend thinks that he is on very strong ground and that the House will be with him. But his purpose is certainly not to pass a vote of censure on Government. His purpose is to impress on the Department the necessity either of completely abolishing the system of controls or to bring it into line with the needs and the necessities of the situation. I am not unmindful of the case for the retention of controls by the Government. I am one of those who in the old Assembly days watched the gradual introduction of the control system in this country and also systematically opposed it as it was my impression then—and the impression has not been dispelled even now—that once you get into a system of controls and you start controlling commodities, it is the control itself which assumes the control over you and cannot get out of the control yourself.

Now, let us take the Government's case. What is, after all, the Government case? Government say that the war time controls were imposed by

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra] the necessity of war situation and with the cessation of the war there has been a progressive release of controls on commodities; some of those powers have lapsed and the Government have not taken any steps to get back those powers again to tighten up the control. They may easily say that they have de-controlled so many commodities, about 30 to 35, and the control which they have still retained is only in respect of a few commodities. But these commodities are essential commodities and they enter into the existence of everybody, and they have also in their favour the verdict of this House. I was not here, but, I think, it was during the last session that they brought forward a Bill which was enacted into law forthwith. I do not know what kind of arguments were then raised because I have not seen the report, but they got the Essential Powers Act passed into law. By virtue of that Act, they assumed control over certain commodities. It is not that they had already divested themselves of this control, but they got their hands strengthened by the verdict of the House.

Mr. President. The Honourable Member can resume his speech after lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, **Mr. President** (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, I am afraid I have clean forgotten how I began and where I left when the House rose for lunch this morning. I have got a lingering impression that I was explaining to the House the case of Government for the imposition of controls and the maintenance of controls. Briefly speaking, the case rested on two facts, firstly, the Government wanted to explain and that was their case, they have explained from time to time in their press statements that they were pursuing a policy of gradual decontrol, as visible from the number of articles from which controls have been lifted, secondly the point in their favour is that control that they are now exercising, they are doing so by virtue of an Act passed by this legislature in November last, so that the policy they are now pursuing has got the backing of the House. Now, Sir, the sheet anchor of the defence of the Government for the maintenance of controls is this:—shortage of supply of commodities over which control has been imposed and the raging inflation in the country. I will first deal with the question of inflation. This inflationary process in this country started since 1942 after Japan entered into the war and the impact of Japanese aggression completely dislocated the entire financial structure of the Government of India and they had to pursue a policy of inflation. I may say deliberately, because they had to secure goods and services to their country which they had to do by pumping money indefinitely into circulation against the sterling balances that had been accumulating in the Bank of England. Ever since the inflationary process started, we in this House raised protests from time to time asking the Government to be very careful. But, Sir, the government of those days had their own ways and the result was that by the year 1943, it was not only a process of inflation, but it was a process of galloping inflation. Temporary expedients and make shifts were adopted from time to time to check this tide, but with no results. Even today, the inflationary process continues. The position is this, it is a vicious circle. The prices chase the inflationary spiral and the inflationary spiral chases the prices. That is the position which every economist in the country has got to take note of. Now, Sir, in this country alone we find this process of going on. What is happening in America. In America also there have been increase of wages, increase in cost and so forth. But are they going through this inflationary spiral? I emphatically maintain, no, because their increase in wages has led to increased production,—acceleration in production which eventually has

led to reduction in prices. But in this country, we all find ourselves involved in a vicious circle. There is dearth of commodities, prices soar high, labour demands increased wages, and grant of increased wages goes to increase production costs, and because production cost increases, there is a further demand for still higher wages, again there is the same concession made, and the prices again soar and so we move round and round this vicious circle. I now want my Honourable friend to realise this position. I am not in favour of controls, I am not enamoured of controls, neither am I against controls. I want to ask my Honourable friend here and now, will he make up his mind and tell us what is the policy of Government which they are going to pursue in this respect? Are they going indefinitely to pursue this policy of moving round and round this vicious ring or have they set up a plan by which they can break this somewhere? There may be attendant risks, but that risk has got to be faced. Sir, this is the argument so far as inflation is concerned. With regard to shortage of goods, goods in short supply, I am aware that because there has been a fall in production, there is shortage. I am also aware that the Government cannot count upon imports though from press reports I find that imports are gradually trickling into this country, and they are not altogether negligible. Assuming there are no imports, I am prepared to show to the House if I get the time that within the present capacity of the industry, we can meet our requirements to a considerable extent and even by a process of decontrol we shall not be so hard hit as my friends apprehend. Let us take the cloth industry. What is the position of the textile industry today? I carefully listened to the speech of my Honourable friend yesterday and I tried to intervene in the debate with regard to yarn supply, but unfortunately I could not catch the eye of the Chair. The total production of cloth in this country has been on an average 4,800 million yards. That is mill production. Add to it hand loom production which comes to about 1,500 million yards. Now the two industries, mill and hand loom, put together give a total of 6,300 million yards of cloth. Taking the population of India as 400 millions by a process of simple arithmetic you get to yards *per capita*. The productive capacity of Indian mills is never less than 1,800 million yards. I make bold to assert that with regard to hand loom, if we get up-to-date information, the production may be more than 1,500 million yards. I tried to get from the Honourable Member through supplementary questions up-to-date information about hand loom production, but perhaps his department has not got the latest information. Now, Sir, this is the position of cloth industry in India. How are Government controlling the cloth industry? Government say there is a justification. They say that they do not control distribution, the Central Government make certain allocations to the provincial governments on the recommendation perhaps of the Textile Board or some other agency. The recognised buyers or purchasers of the provincial governments take them over and retail sales are handled by a lot of people who are permitted by the provincial governments to handle them. As soon as you make that provision, do you realise that you at once open up the flood gates, of corruption jobbery and nepotism? You have got to face up to them. Secondly when you do that, do you completely absolve yourself of all responsibility in the matter of distribution? My one main objection to this system of control is this. It places the Honourable Member in charge in a peculiar position. If there is no catastrophe, if there is no serious trouble, full credit is with them. They impose controls, they maintain controls, therefore we have not been hard hit. If there is mal-distribution, people are hard hit, they clamour. Then the Central Government says, look here, there is your Provincial Government, we have nothing to do with it. During the few days that I have been in this Assembly, I tried through supplementary questions to elicit information from the Honourable Member as to the nature of control that the Central Government exercise over the provinces in this respect. Do the Government of India think that their conscience will be satisfied when they simply allocate a certain quantity of cloth or any commodity to a particular province and would they not care to know how this

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Mahtia]

allocation actually reach the people? Do you care to consider whether and in what way your allocations reach the masses,—the man in the street, the man behind the plough, that great sub-stratum of society which today feels the greatest pinch on account of this shortage of supplies? As I have shown, the cloth position itself is not menacing. I am sure there will be some difficulty in the initial stages but in the long run rather than in the short people will be more benefited by the lifting of the control on cloth. In any case it will not be a fatal matter if the control is lifted just now.

Then I come to iron and steel with regard to which Government have got absolute control, the rigidest control possible. What is the position in regard to iron and steel in this country? The normal consumption here of iron and steel before the war used to be somewhere in the neighbourhood of one million tons, of which seven lakh tons was met by indigenous production and three lakh tons by imports. I may be told that imports are not coming now. But at the same time I want to impress on the Honourable Member that owing to the exigencies of the war our production was accelerated, and today the capacity of the iron and steel industry is something in the neighbourhood of 12 lakh tons. This quantity that is available in this country they have divided into two parts; one is for the railways and the defence services, the railway quota to be exclusively operated by the Railway Board. With regard to the other part they have allocated it according to scheme with six or seven items in number. I have examined them and found that they come to something like 7½ lakh tons. Of this quantity of 7½ lakh tons allocated to the other groups 2½ lakh tons go for the general public including small-scale manufacturers of consumer goods. Then comes the second category,—1½ lakh tons for industries,—maintenance of industries and packing and the rest of it. Then 80,000 tons have been allocated for the purpose of development projects of the Central Government, the provincial and State Governments and so on, I will not go into details. But it all makes up the quantity of 7½ lakh tons. Now I want to ask the Honourable Member one question: if he releases the control over this commodity what misfortune is going to befall this country?

Then let us come to cement. The House will perhaps be interested to know that before the war the production of cement was 7 lakh and 80 thousand tons; and after the war there has been a staggering improvement in production which now stands at 2 million tons. And it has been increasing even more since. What is the sense in controlling cement today? Then take the case of coal. How is coal controlled by this Government? At the pithead they fix the price and there is an agency which allocates to the different consuming areas. I dealt with the question of coal at considerable length in connection with the railways. I believe that that is the greatest bottleneck that you have to face in all your development programmes and schemes; it is going to make your domestic life impossible because there is such an acute shortage of coal. I can tell you that today we are not really short of coal; there is no shortage of mining labour. The only difficulty is that of transport, and if that is solved it will be solved not only for the benefit of consumers but for the benefit of the manufacturers and industrialists as well.

Then take the case of sugar. Up to the war we used to manufacture about one million tons of sugar. The war also led to considerable acceleration of production. Today the productive capacity of the industry is something like 1 million and 84 thousand tons. And I can tell the House that as a member of the Public Accounts Committee in those days I found that we used to export a considerable quantity to the countries of the middle east. Today we are in such a position that we can easily dispense with the control on sugar and there will be no catastrophe if the control is lifted. I also want to remind the House that the consumption of *gur* has risen from 2.5 million tons in 1934 to nearly 4 million tons now in this country. *Gur* comes in addition to sugar, and besides this, there is 'kandhari sugar' which is mainly the product of the U. P., which

comes to nearly a lakh of tons. Therefore I am inclined to think that there will be no trouble with regard to sugar.

Then I come to kerosene. It passes my understanding that even at this stage they should maintain control of kerosene. Today in a supplementary question I wanted to know from the Honourable Member whether it was not a fact that there was a regular glut of kerosene in the ports. It is not the Government who want to control it; the people who really want control are the merchants who say they are short of containers and do not want the control to be lifted now as they cannot cope with the supply which is ample. I want the House to consider whether that kind of argument should prevail with the Honourable Member. In a press statement issued some time ago the Honourable Member indicated that the pre-war offtake of kerosene oil was seven lakh tons and by December 1946 they had restored about six-sevenths of the pre-war offtake. Even today you go to the villages and small towns and you find that people do not get anything like kerosene and when they get it, they have to pay fancy prices for it. Then I come to paper.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has taken about 18 minutes already.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, I will finish in two minutes.

In paper, our production before the war used to be 53,000 tons and now we produce about 90,000 tons. In strawboards and paste-boards we produced 8,000 tons before the war and now we produce 24,000 tons. I know the control on newsprint has been lifted but there is no necessity for control on white paper.

Sir, before I conclude I want the House to consider one thing and I ask the Honourable Member also to consider this. I have considered the hardships and privations which the people have so far put up with. But there is another aspect to which I want to draw attention. The Honourable Member must realise that some day he has to lift these controls; if so, when? If he wants to wait for the day when there will be adequate supply he will be simply putting off the evil day. He has to face it some day; and now is the time to face it. Let him also consider the demoralisation that has come over the country. I want the normal trade channels which have been silted up and closed to be revived. Trade should follow the normal course and it should mainly be controlled by the normal laws of demand and supply. I want to bring that position to the notice of the Honourable Member. After all you have taken away the occupation of not a small section of the people of this country. Unemployment is facing the country; you will be demobilising lots of people now, and where are you going to find occupations for them? Today all avenues of trade and commerce are closed to them. If anybody wants to do any trade he can do it only in grocery and that also in spices only; you cannot trade in cloth, sugar, kerosene, coal, paper, cement, iron and steel or anything else. Therefore I say you have taken away the normal avocations of life from thousands and thousands of people. In India that we visualise today we want trades to grow and thrive, we want the normal trade channels to be resurrected and to function. I therefore appeal to the Honourable Member to balance both sides. I have tried to place dispassionately before the house both sides of the question—the case, for, and against control; and on striking a balance my view definitely is that the time has now come when the Honourable Member should take courage in both hands and say that these controls must cease.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I heard yesterday and today speeches which have amused me and some of which have undoubtedly moved me. I have heard arguments both for the retention of controls and for their removal, and I am trying in my mind to define my own attitude towards this question. And the one principal question that I ask myself is whether I as a citizen of this land am not entitled to certain primary necessities at fair prices and in sufficient quantities. I do not mind for the time being whether supply of these primary

[Sjt. N. V. Gadgil.]

necessities is secured to me by following a free economy or by following a controlled system under which in some cases prices are controlled, in some cases production and distribution are controlled. When I look at this question, I naturally try to think out what will be the position if the controls are removed, as has been urged by some of my friends here and now. If my friends agree with me that it is the duty of a modern State to supply primary-necessities of every citizen then I submit, Sir, that every citizen must be given adequate food, sufficient cloth and sufficient accommodation. I do not want to extend the list of primary necessities to more than three, and I will apply my mind to each one of them in the context of present circumstances.

As I find from the actual wording of the cut motion, food is already excluded from it. On the question of cloth I find my Bengali friends keen on retention of control because they know what its removal means. As regards accommodation, I think the whole House was unanimous when the Bill for the control of rent was under discussion. So I think that in the final analysis if every one of us is prepared to look into this question with reason and without passion or emotion, he will have to agree that in the present circumstances it is dangerous to remove control so far as these three necessities are concerned.

Just imagine what will happen if rent control is removed? I do not think there will be a single member of this House who will agree to this proposition namely that all controls should be removed whereby it means that control over rent should be removed. But every one of them is looking at this problem from a particular and a specialized point of view. In Bombay 60 per cent of its population is living in one-room tenement and the average number of occupants in each one-room tenement is 5.6. If control is removed, rents will go high and the saying of the Sanskrit poet will come true. What will happen will be, as has been said by the poet:

Shasya bhumitala Dishopi Vasanam, Dnyanamrutam bhojanam

There will be no house but *Bhumitalam*, i.e., mother earth, will be the bed, and for clothing *Dishopi Vasanam*, i.e., four quarters of the world, and as for food *Dnyapi bhojanam*, i.e., knowledge if there be any. But that is not the state which a Government responsible to the people can contemplate to happen.

Now come to the second category, namely food. Mr. President, you remember that last year when this House was discussing food situation, the Government accepted as its responsibility to see that every citizen in this country got food in sufficient quantity and of requisite quality—these were the words used by the Honourable the Food Member. If they have not been successful so far, then we must ascribe the failure either to the policy of control which they are following or to the inefficiency of the machinery. Now it is an accepted fact that India has not been able to produce enough to meet her normal requirements not only of a balanced diet, as laid down by Dr. Akroyd, but even of austerity diet namely of 11 oz. per day *per capita*. If you remove control so far as food is concerned—although it is not contemplated in this particular cut motion—I am sure that there will be sectional famine—I have no doubt about that. The rich will get, the poor will starve. I may here illustrate what is happening in the Bombay Presidency. A few months ago, the Bombay Government imposed control of jaggery—*gur*. There was such a hue and cry throughout the province and speeches on the lines on which some of the speeches have been made today were made from the platform; articles were written; and no abuse was considered indecent so far as the ministers were concerned. Some of us were consulted and particularly some of us were against removal of control because we believe that in the post-war world there is no place for full play of free economy. Queues and quotas have come to stay; let

us be certain about it. It is not true of this country alone but it has happened and is happening in every other country and wherever public workers or leaders of public have tried to monkey with the situation they have to come to grief. That has happened in America. The removal of control was followed by rise in prices several hundred times. Therefore let us reconcile ourselves to this fact that some sort of controlled economy has come to stay. When the discussion about nationalization was going on here,—I quite remember the speeches and when I compare them with the speeches delivered yesterday and today—I find a sort of intellectual inconsistency. Most of us were so keen on nationalization of this industry and that industry, but do we realize that nationalization is only possible when there is a planned economy, and no planned economy is possible unless there is a system of control? I fail to see how on one hand you speak of nationalization under which you are prepared to believe that more social justice will be done, and at the same time you are asking for the removal of controls. Take sugar for the matter of that. Before there was rationing of sugar, a few people in villages used to consume sugar. Now sugar is distributed, although not in equal proportion but it is distributed in a fairly equitable manner. If you remove control today, the rich will continue to get it and the poor—some of them may not require it—and a large section of the middle class and a large section of the lower middle class will have to go without it or will not be able to purchase it in the same quantity in which they require. Listening to popular fury what a popular Government does is not always efficient and not always good. The Bombay Government removed the control on jaggery and jaggoru which was rationed and was being sold in the rationing depots at the rate of seven annas per seer, went up to 1-12-0 a seer within eight days. Only the other day the control on groundnut was removed and prices have gone 30 per cent within 24 hours. We must understand that control becomes necessary when there is short supply. I fail to see that removal of control will bring forth more production. I am told that everything is available in the black market but if every one were to purchase in the black market, there will be shortage

of supply even in the black market. Therefore the question boils down to this. If there is short supply and if you want fair, just and equitable distribution, it is only possible under a scheme of control. When I say this I do not want to justify the administration of this policy. In fact when the Bill for the continuation of certain powers given under the Defence of India Rules was under discussion here, the Honourable Member in Charge of the said Bill frankly admitted that the administration was not satisfactorily done and that it would be his business to see that controls wherever they were retained would be worked with the utmost efficiency.

But what happens to us the common people? If you remove the control we are the victims of the merchants' avarice. If you retain the control we are the victims of the corruption of the officials and between these two our lot is becoming more and more miserable day by day. The feelings with which speeches were made today are an indication how the whole countryside is feeling about it. I am sure the Government will take note of this and when they feel that by adopting a free economy the essential necessities of life will not be available and if they are convinced that the retention of controls is necessary, they will see that the controls are administered with efficiency and honesty.

As regards cloth I do not agree to the extent to which it has been made out by some of the textile interests that there has been short production. They are particularly keen to show to the country (because Government passed a Bill prescribing eight hour day) that because of this legislation there has been shortage of production. Mr. President, you know Mr. Kandubhai Desai, the labour leader of Ahmedabad. He very recently published a pamphlet and the same was republished in an issue of the *Harijan*. He has shown there that before the war the number of working looms was two lakhs and today it is three

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lakhs and yet the production has not gone up in the proportion in which it ought to have. Why? What circumstances are likely to explain this gap? Only three days ago. Mr. President, I was in Bombay and I had a long talk with Mr. Kandubhai Desai and also with some of the authorities of the Textile Board. I learnt that the returns submitted by the mill owners are never scrutinised and verified. While I was travelling I met a gentleman who has something to do with the textile industry, in fact, he is the manager of a well known textile mill in Central India. He said to me (of course that was in confidence and I make no breach of confidence, because it is a matter of public importance) that he had actually shown that so many looms were not working whereas as a matter of fact these looms were working and their production was not shown in the returns. Where does this production go? I have it on the authority of a very respectful gentleman that a certain textile merchant in Ahmedabad paid one lakh of rupees to the railway authorities for getting ten wagons for removing a quantity of cotton bales from Ahmedabad to Peshwar to be despatched beyond the frontier. Only last year I had the honour to preside over the Praja Parishad of Jhanjira State. I was there for three days and the stories of smuggling I heard there, apart from their romantic aspect, did go to show that quite a large quantity of textile goods passed through Jhanjira port to foreign lands. So what I want to make out is that the production of cloth has not gone down so much as is sought to be made out. I do not want to refer to the prices or the profits made by the millowners. I hope that one day they will have to answer both in this world and in the other world in the near future, of course assuming that they believe in the other world. What I want to submit is that at the present moment I am not dogmatic about either having a free economy or a controlled economy. All I want to submit is that it is the duty of the Government to see that the supply of primary necessities is assured. The Chinese Emperor once asked the great Philosopher, Confucius what were the tests of a good government and the philosopher replied "Sufficiency of food, sufficiency of cloth and faith that justice will be done. If you can secure these three your kingdom will last till eternity". I have mentioned this story so that the members of the Interim Government may draw the necessary inroad therefrom.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Sir, I am very grateful for the most informing discussion that we have had. I particularly use the word 'informing', because in order to attain or attempt to attain the kind of Confucian state just now described by my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil, it is necessary that the members of this House should participate in the responsibility and inform Government of their views in the matter. But when a responsible and earnest speaker like the last one winds up his speech with a formula of non-committal on either side, it is difficult to believe that one has been much informed as to the state of mind of the representatives of the people gathered here. Apart from particular members, let me attempt to share frankly my impressions with the House as to the expression of views which we have heard in the House. I thought at one stage that the whole House was practically unanimous for decontrolling. But immediately doubts have been raised by other speakers and I also noted the response given to those other speakers. Perhaps this is the most informing part of the whole business. I see that nobody has made up his mind.

A few days ago when I listened to the supplementary questions on a subject matter which related to the Commodity Prices Board, I thought that I saw a conflict of ideas. I had imagined people were all against control, but here they were eagerly participating in the permanent arrangements necessary for permanent artificial control of prices. Everyone was eager to have a very good Commodity Prices Board to have a very substantial programme for that Board and everyone appeared to feel that control was necessary for all time and

that the best thing to do was to make the best arrangements to suffer it.

Well, I have listened to many debates here, Sir, I hope the House will forgive me for talking in this strain. I am not complaining but I am explaining my difficulties and the difficulties of my colleagues also. We all have been listening to many debates on many subjects. I do not know what impression other people have, but I shall frankly explain my impression. It can be summed up in one sentence. We do not trust anybody in this world. We distrust the politicians of all grades from Government Members here down to the managers of co-operative movements in the villages, we distrust the officials, from the Secretaries and Directors-General down to the *chuprassis*. We do not trust the trade, from the capitalist down to the retail dealer in the village. We do not trust anybody. So all round it is an atmosphere of want of trust. That appears to be the unanimous and confirmed state of mind of most of us. What we should do under these circumstances is the problem of all Governments including those who would wish to reach to the Utopian ideal. If there is a mistrust of everybody and every profession including the administrators how are we to arrange life in this country? But we must get on now. There is the question of supplies of the necessities of life. That is the main thing. These can be supplied through one or other of two economies. As has been explained by most speakers, there is what is called free economy and there is the regimentation economy—free economy, meaning thereby, not that it is particularly a matter of freedom, but an arrangement in which the profit motive of men and the competitive economy that has been suited to that profit motive should prevail and govern matters. Everybody should be vigilant. Everybody is inclined to make such profit as he can. Let us try to make use of the laws of economy that arise out of these conditions. Let vigilance on the one hand, profit motive on the other hand and a free competitive economy to suit all this be allowed to come into play, full play, and let things be bought and sold and supplied as a result of the play of these forces. That is one method. The other method is let us regiment everything. Let us see how much we have in the country, how much we can procure and distribute. Let us see the growing population also and take it into account and let us fix the quotas and make the best machinery available for its distribution. It cannot be anything else. It may be a mixture of both these. But basically these are the two methods we can adopt. But for both these things we want certain conditions of character. We do not trust one another. If we want free economy, that is to say, the profit motive, we leave it to the people to manage as best as they can. In the case of regimentation we have to trust somebody. If the regimentation depends partly on the services of the trading community and partly on the services of the servants of the state, then the regimentation has to depend on the character of both these people. Nobody has yet evolved and recommended to the Government an arrangement by which we can in this country distribute everything entirely through the officials of Government. That would be complete 19 carat regimentation. It would not be possible in this country and in fact we do not trust officials to that extent. Unless we have an absolutely trusted body of officials it would not be possible to carry this out. It is evident that nobody thinks that we can secure such a condition even in an approximate measure. If the trading community also has to participate in the system of regimentation their defects also come into play. Hence corruption and black marketing about which we talk. These can be traced to the two wings that go to make this administration of control. The officials employed are corrupt we say, and the trade that we employ are also corrupt we say, and black marketing and misery have resulted according to the opinions of those people who spoke for decontrol. They say 'remove control'. I do not understand them to say that at once the Ganges will come up and flow with

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kerosene and with all that we want. What they mean is we shall bear with the troubles that arise out of the free economy system, it is preferable to what is now going on. That seems to be the opinion of most people here. On the other hand it has been very aptly pointed out that there is inconsistency in our thoughts. It was very prominently brought out by Mr. Gadgil when he referred to the numerous occasions when nationalisation projects were offered as a remedy for all evils. Wherever there is any fault found the answer is 'why not nationalise?' But immediately when we turn to the other side of the game we see all the trouble in nationalisation. We have some instances of nationalisation. The railways are entirely nationalised now. But everyday we find questions about tickets, about wagons, about coal in particular, and in fact the whole Legislative Assembly concerns itself often in the administration of the railways and we finally come to a deadlock in the matter. We find numerous difficulties, and it is not surprising that the Member in charge has to say 'I shall carefully examine the position, I will make enquiries and I shall do the best I can'. Well, Sir, if we nationalise, this will have to be done in every department of life. We will have to enquire into all of them in this House or similar Houses and go into them all in long debates and interpellations. Let me tell the House, Sir that nationalisation is not an easy way out. We all desire it, because nobody wants other people to share profits. We want to share the profits ourselves and we want it to be distributed evenly. But the difficulties of nationalisation require examination in intensive searching detail. If the talk about officials day in and day out of the character which we have heard in the House so often be taken as justified, is it possible to bring about nationalisation? Let Honourable Members remember that the human material is common. We cannot make new human material in our country in a day over-night or even in a year. The same set of traders and officials will be there. We are all children of one family, the traders and the officials, with the same education and the same human inheritance—intellectual, spiritual and physical. If we are corrupt in one branch, and if we do not mind attacking the character of our people in any single branch freely as we have been doing in this House, then we are attacking all branches of our human material because all of them are the same. I beg of Honourable Members not to indulge in wrong perspective or in exaggeration. We do great injury to ourselves by indulging in such exaggerated attacks. I maintain, Sir, that the public service is not so corrupt as it has been described to be. I maintain that the trading community is not so corrupt as it is maintained to be. **Some Honourable Members:** Question.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Question because you are not traders and because the traders are not here. If I had been in a company of traders I would have heard shouts of a different character. (Interruption)

Mr. President: Order, order. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Let my friends remember that the human material is the same. It is not as if persons become honest or dishonest as soon as they change over from one profession to another. Man is not so weak. He is strong and maintains his character in whatever walks of life he is. And here let me put forward another word of caution. There are instances we see every day I admit, of corruption, of error and of all kinds of wrong. But we should not generalise from single instances. One Honourable Member said that wheat is being given to the cattle in a neighbouring village. He said that wheat is being given to the cattle in a neighbouring village. He said 'it is being done near Delhi go and see'. Another set of members say there is black-marketing in wheat because wheat is scarce. What does all this mean? It means only this that we are generalising from particular instances that we see on particular occasions, and we exaggerate our inferences.

One day a man may be trying to feed his cattle on wheat, for whatever reasons, God knows. It is probable that he might be making a demonstration to show that he is not going to sell wheat at the price which has been fixed by the Controller and he is rather prepared to give the wheat to the cattle rather than to the procuring officer. But it is wrong to imagine that every day he will feed his cattle with wheat instead of selling it at the controlled price. It is also wrong to infer that every official in the world is corrupt. We cannot have any Government, any control or any decent life if we have to distrust one another to this extent. Therefore we must proceed on a basis of trust, whatever may be the economy that you propose and it is only on a balanced consideration of advantages and disadvantages that we can come to some conclusions.

Now, I at once admit that I have been greatly impressed by the arguments. The theoretical argument for control is cent per cent correct, as soon as you show a shortage of supply as against demand. But I am deeply impressed by the amount of feeling that has been shown in the speeches that we have heard today and the amount of discontent that has been exhibited with the existing system of control. I know that many Honourable Members are prepared to put up with the evils that may arise out of de-control rather than bear with the evils that are going on under control. I realise the strong feeling in this matter and I shall endeavour my best to persuade all those whom we have to persuade in order to reach a policy in connection with this. Honourable Members should remember that Provincial Governments have expressed their views through their representatives on various occasions with reference to this question of supply and distribution of the necessities of life and on those occasions we have always found that Provincial Governments strongly support control. Whatever the opinion of the dealers and the merchants may be, the Provincial Governments on the whole are rather for control. The States have also to be consulted. The Provincial Governments have to be consulted and all my colleagues too. In considering this question we will certainly take into account the feeling that has been exhibited in this House.

It has been said that it is probably not safe to remove control altogether and that it is the duty of the Government to improve the administration of control. That was the attitude one Honourable Member took up as the way out of the difficulty. It is true that it is our responsibility, but while recognising the duty, the difficulties of making a revolution of things should also be understood and we may have but to choose the lesser of two evils ultimately when we take all things into account.

Speaking for myself, I hold the view that a regimented life cannot be secured by coercion. It can be secured only by getting the law to act from within. Our country is used to a regimented life. Whatever other people may think, I hold the view that our people are quite used to a life of regimentation. But the method our people have been following in this regard through the centuries is different from the coercive processes that are now tried. A man cannot eat without a bath. He is horrified to eat without going through a bath. Regimentation comes into effect there. A man does not want to eat meat. He is horrified at the very sight of meat. There is no need for any order to prevent Mr. Sri Prakasa from eating meat. There are horrors created. Educative processes have been gone through during a long number of years in the matter of food, sanitation, sleeping and so on. Regimentation was good and useful but today all that has gone, we must remember. All the horrors have disappeared in most cases and regimentation is difficult in modern times and therefore it is that we find that these controls are not easy. In fact in an ideal State such as was described by Mr. Gadgil, people should be horrified to take 8 ounces, when they were allowed only 6 ounces from a shop. But that is not our position today. In this very

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House, in order to escape difficulty we are asking on all occasions for more petrol for Honourable Members, more housing space and the like. Are we setting an example in this matter? I don't think so. I do not grudge whatever Honourable Members are wanting to get. That is our liberty and we can ask and we can get but I think control is something more difficult. It is something more difficult than getting privileges in this House. If we want the laws to operate in order to secure an equal and tolerable life for our people we will have to educate ourselves a great deal more. Hence I am inclined to think that it is not possible in our country to have a regimented life by mere imitation of what other people have done or by merely continuing what we had to do during the war period. We can only get it by a process of very slow education and a mixed process of trying all methods out.

Therefore we have been removing a number of controls and we are watching the consequences. Recently we removed the control over oil and oil-seeds and we have been watching very earnestly and anxiously the consequences. In some places prices have fallen. In some places prices have gone up, gone up not from the black market price. They have gone up from the controlled price. The black market prices no longer exist as black market prices, because the control has been removed. But the unavailability has disappeared to a large extent and availability has begun to show itself although at prices higher than the previous controlled prices. In many places they have gone down. But this is only a week's experience so far as oil and oil seeds are concerned and we should not generalise from a week's experience. By and by, we will have more data on which we can work. Similarly after hearing the House, I should be quite prepared to advise my Honourable colleague the Food Member who is responsible for sugar, among other things, to decontrol sugar. People will not die if there is a shortage of sugar. They will take *gur* or chew their fingers or do something of that kind. They will manage some how or other. Let us meet the shortage of sugar as a result of decontrol and let us watch the results. We have to proceed cautiously. I must tell Honourable Members that we cannot proceed rashly. Nor is it good to proceed rashly even if we could. Let us try decontrol on various articles and let us see the effect. We will live and learn from the experience. Departmental officers who were keen on control always put before us the classic example, as they call it, of steel. As soon as steel was decontrolled some time ago, it disappeared underground everywhere. We cannot experiment with essential articles in that manner. That is a sound argument but of course the argument against it that we cannot generalise from that one instance. However, the matter has to be carefully thought out. That reminds me of one point which I wish strongly to urge.

It is not right to imagine, much less is it right to urge that officials, because they are employed in working controls, insist on maintaining the controls, just because they fear that by decontrol they would lose their jobs. It is very uncharitable and it is another illustration of what I said at first that we distrust everybody and we still hope to live. I maintain that it is absurd to imagine that officers who are not going to be dismissed if the control is to be removed are maintaining control because they like to enjoy a little power that we have given them. (Interruptions) I won't yield to such interruptions. I refuse to believe that officers can behave like that who are these officers? They are my cousins, my nephews or my sons. My son can be an officer and he won't behave like that. I maintain that these officers are not corrupt in the manner and to the extent that has been believed, unfortunately, by our people.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Question.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: You may question it to the end of time. I maintain that not a single officer wants this control just because

he is in the service which maintains control. (Interruptions) I do not mind the interruptions, but I should be heard. I want Honourable Members to realise that every officer realises the difficulties. Every officer has a family, he has relatives and dependants and friends and assistants and all of them have to live in rural areas and in small towns and they have to go to the bazaar and stand in the queues too. It is absurd to imagine that officers want control because it pays them. (Interruptions) If only Honourable Members will have patience, they will understand what exactly I am thinking. Honourable Members will see that I admit officers are certainly timid. They have carried on the control for a certain length of time and they imagine that things will go wrong if there be a sudden change. I can admit that. Everyone of you also, I.

position. I do not think that officers are a different class. That is my fundamental proposition and if that is rejected by any Member here, then I say that that Member is thinking wrongly. We are all of one class and of one education and we are living under one set of circumstances and we should hesitate before making a change which affects a large number of people. I can assure Honourable Members that many officers, whose opinion counts, would have less work if controls were removed. They would be happier if these controls were removed.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will they undergo loss or gain?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: It is unworthy of Honourable Members to insist on saying it. At any rate, even if they hold such an opinion, it is no use expressing it. What is the use of saying that they are making gains. It is absurd to say such a thing.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Then, why did you bring into existence an enforcement branch to look into such affairs?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: We have got the Indian Penal Code, but it does not mean that all of us are committing murders or thefts. We want to control the crime and crime is a necessary element of all control and of all regulations. It is a necessary consequence. (Interruptions)

Mr. President: If I may intervene. I must say that tolerance of other people's views is one of the essentials of democracy. And if the Honourable Members are so intolerant as not to hear the Honourable Member of Government, then . . . I need not say anything further. But how can we expect of the democracy that we are longing for? (Interruptions.) Whatever it may be, he is expressing the views of Government. He never interrupted Honourable Members when they were expressing their views. Whether the Honourable Members agree with him or not, he is entitled to be heard and it is the duty of Honourable Members to hear him. If we are not willing to hear the other side of the picture, then all I can say is that it is not possible for us to carry on in a democratic manner. (Interruptions.) Order, Order. Whatever it may be, the Honourable Member is entitled to be heard and he should be given a patient hearing. He says what he feels.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I did not oppose the Honourable Member. Possibly, it is a slip of his tongue. I said that some officers may gain by these controls or lose by these controls, and the Honourable Member said that it is unworthy of Members to say like that.

Mr. President: It is quite a different thing to object to the expression 'unworthy'. If that is a point of objection, then it is a different matter altogether.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I thoroughly realise the feelings of Honourable Members and I am quite prepared to withdraw any word that I have said and which is wrong. But I want you to consider this that I am entitled to claim that if the officials of my Department or of any other Department are attacked in this way, namely, that they maintain a system of,

[Sri C. Rajagopalachari] control because of the gains that they get by it, I consider it a really unworthy allegation. But whether it is stated in a speech or in an interruption makes little difference. I consider it wrong to maintain a service and at the same time to attack it in that manner.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: The expressions 'wroug' and 'unworthy' have different and distinct connotations.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural), From the Himalayas to Cape Comorin there is a volume of public criticism to the effect that this control has led to dishonesty amongst the officials

Mr. President: He is not contesting that

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I do not deny that, but what I was saying was this that if the control is to go, it must go on other grounds. I cannot imagine myself agreeing to the proposition that any officers of Government want the control to remain because it pays them to keep it. It is not such a bad state of affairs as all that. And I am entitled to tell Honourable Members here that it is not, in my opinion, true and I also hold the view that it is wrong to make such an allegation.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Does the Honourable Member know that in respect of a previous Executive Councillor there were different issues of a particular newspaper in which he, by name, and his subordinates were attacked and challenged and they were asked to be prosecuted on the ground that they were all dishonest?

Mr. President: I do not think a reply to that is necessary. They are all irrelevant remarks.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: It is one thing to examine general motives which will affect any particular policy and it is another thing to attack individuals. If there are monopolies created by a system of licences which come to be under control then those who are in the business which is already under this system of control, want the control and those who are not in the business under the present system of control, do not want the control. We will have to take these tendencies into account. I warn the Honourable Members, therefore, and I warn myself also in the same manner that we shall have to be cautious with reference to the sources of allegations. If I hear a small trader who has not got a licence telling me 'Oh, Sir, control must go', I hear him and take his facts. But I also take into account the fact that he is one who does not benefit by the controls and he will benefit if the controls were removed. Similarly, if I hear a man who is already licensed say "control is very necessary, if controls were removed, prices would soar up. It has so happened," I have to take not only his facts but also his motives also into account his vested interests, and then come to some conclusions. In the same manner here, I want Honourable Members to test every piece of evidence that they get, and weigh and consider it. After all, all of us together are administering this country. As was pointed out by my Honourable friend Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, this House has accepted that essential articles have to be controlled. Even now let us look at the cautious manner in which the Cut Motion is moved. Nothing prevented the Honourable Member from including food in his cut motion. But why does he not include it? Because he is rightly and properly cautious about the matter. Food is an essential article. Now according to the view of some others, cloth may also be an essential article to a large extent. This was pointed out in the very well reasoned argument of my Honourable friend Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra. He explained the position with reference to supplies quite accurately. I was charmed with the manner in which he remembered the figures for which I have every time to look into the papers.

According to the calculation given out by Pandit Maatra, it works out to 15 yards per man and therefore he says it is quite enough, and asks why we should think of any control. Now, Sir, I want Honourable Members to remember that if we interpret statistics like that, we may have no difficulty. We have the quantity of cloth, we have the number of people, the demand is there, the supply is there and we shall get on. But what we have to deal with in the case of difficulties of distribution is a little more complicated than that. All the total yardage is not evenly distributed among the population to produce a 15 yards average supply. That is exactly the philosophy of the control-walas. It has to be distributed properly. How can it be done? Free economy will not do, because the demand is always slightly more than the supply and some people's demands are more than some other people's demands and the demand is not only for one's own clothing, but also for making money and therefore there will be cornering, there will be hoarding and there will be black marketing. When a thing is so finely cut, when the supply is just enough for the demand, there is bound to be difficulty in distribution and any essential article of the nature of cloth has to be the subject matter of very anxious consideration before we decontrol it. Suppose we decontrol cloth here and now, as one Honourable Member said, by proclaiming here and now that cloth has been decontrolled. What will happen is immediately the Bombay and Ahmedabad people will take away all the cloth available in Bombay and Ahmedabad either for exporting to other countries or for selling at higher prices later on. Nobody can prevent it. What will the deficit provinces do? That is the trouble. Take the handloom case. The moment control is removed, all the handloom weavers of my province will take away the yarn that is available in the South and what will the poor weavers of Bengal do for yarn? Thereafter the handloom weavers of Bengal will have to starve. These are the difficulties with regard to certain essential commodities. Therefore, while I would boldly say that between the two evils, I would choose the lesser evil, namely of decontrolling, I would hesitate to make the experiment with regard to essential articles straightaway. That is the difficulty of the situation. Let me now talk departmentally. Whatever may be said about sugar or about kerosene and things like these, I would just remind Honourable Members that those are matters not within the scope of my Department. Kerosene is looked after by the Department of Works, Mines and Powers, sugar is looked after by the Honourable Member for Food.

Sri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural).
What about coconut oil?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: It will take a very long time to dilate on the motive, the urge and the forces behind the trade in coconut oil. Coconut oil is an edible oil, people in Ceylon, people in Travancore and Cochin and all other places are concerned with this coconut oil. It will take some length of time for me to explain all the complications in regard to coconut oil. But that is a minor matter. My department deals with the very important problem of supply and distribution of coal, the supply and distribution of iron and steel, and with cloth. Paper is of less importance. That is all we have to deal with. Practically we have removed every other kind of control for which this Department is responsible and for which the Cut Motion has been moved. Practically everything else has gone and any controls that Honourable Members may observe are based on agreement or voluntary plans and schemes of distribution.

Now, regarding steel and coal, I do not think any arguments are necessary from me for Honourable Members to realise that the position is very difficult and will have to be subject to regulation. I do not think even whole hogger decontrollers would go to the extent of saying that coal should

[Sri C. Rajagopalachari]

be decontrolled or that iron and steel should be completely free. Paper perhaps can be freed. I would make an experiment with regard to paper and advise my Honourable colleague to make an experiment with regard to sugar also in the first instance. Let us help one another and see how things can be managed.

Now, Sir, I do not think I need detain the House any further in regard to this matter. I am sorry if I have offended some people when I have tried to defend another set of people. I myself felt and I still feel it my duty to say that I have not said anything beyond what I should say, that we should be careful in drawing bad generalisations from single instances.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa, Muhammadan). The Honourable Member did not reply to that part of what Mr. Gadgil said namely that mills were not submitting returns properly and they were not being scrutinised correctly and so on. What has the Honourable Member to say to that allegation? He cited a personal instance of a conversation that he had with some responsible people. I want to know what the Honourable Member has to say about that?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Mills, 400 and odd in number send their returns. Scrutiny consists generally of two kinds, scrutinising the paper and the various data given in the paper and taking the contents there. That is one kind of scrutiny. The other kind of scrutiny is executive going into it and comparing the mill stocks and checking the account given upon inspection. But this is not practicable. We have to trust them. Now, Sir, in some cases prosecutions can be launched if there is false report given with regard to any matter. There is no doubt there is wholesome apprehension of this. We trust people and to some extent keep authority going. If the particular instance referred to by Mr. Gadgil is what the Honourable Member is referring to, some gentleman told him something—and the name of the gentleman is not given—he says he promised confidence to him, and still in the interest of the public, he is saying what that gentleman said without the name being given. Now, Sir, it is possible for interested persons to give such information for a particular purpose. It is possible also to deceive one another in such matters. If I wanted a particular effort to be attained, I could carry on a whispering campaign pretending to give information and confusing the understanding also. Now, Sir, it is not good to focus attention on such stories. But the question of checking reports and statements given by mills, that is a matter which should be examined. There is power I think to do it and it is being done to the extent that is possible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I am not satisfied with the Honourable Member's defence of the services, nor am I satisfied with the general tenor of his reply, but at the same time, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

Mr. President: Is it the pleasure of the House to allow Prof. Ranga to withdraw his Motion?

Some Honourable Members: No, no. He has given reasons showing dissatisfaction.

Mr. President: But whatever be the reasons, he is asking for leave to withdraw his motion. His reasons do not matter, his prayer is for permission to withdraw his motion.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member): Reasons are bad, but action is good.

Mr. President: Is it the pleasure of the House that Prof. Ranga be given leave to withdraw his motion?

Several Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, with regard to my motion which comes next I understand the Defence Member would like to be present when it is debated. As he is not here now, I request that I may be allowed to move it tomorrow.

Mr. President: It is expected that the Defence Member will be here but there is no cent per cent guarantee that he will be here.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I made inquiries and I am told that there is a good chance of his being present tomorrow.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, the defence expenditure budget has just been circulated and it would be helpful to us if the motion can be moved tomorrow.

Mr. President: I was going to suggest that the motion may be moved now and the discussion postponed till tomorrow. Then there will be no occasion for changing the precedence.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab Muhammadan): Sir, what is the use of having these cut motions when their withdrawal is inevitable?

Mr. President: I cannot answer for the Honourable Members who move them. The idea is not necessarily to have any vote for or against the motions but to bring the subject matter up for discussion and to know from Government what they have to say on certain questions.

So this motion will stand over till tomorrow.

DEMAND NO. 22—FINANCE DEPARTMENT. *Inflation and High Prices*

Mr. Manu Subedar. Sir, I beg to move.

"That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs 100."

The House will note that it is a token cut. Sir, there was a very wholesome practice in the past when the Finance Member in beginning his budget speech gave a review of the economic conditions in the country, a review of the trade and the Seasons, imports and exports balance of trade and the balance indebtedness; and he further gave an inkling of his own outlook and policy with regard to financial matters in the course of the following year. The budget speeches in these times have become a little longer, but from the budget speech of the Finance Member we miss that portion; nor has he referred to the items which I shall refer to. It is for that reason that I am taking the opportunity of a cut motion in order to refer to some of these topics and to elicit from him whatever lines of policy he feels inclined and he feels ready at the moment to give to this House.

Sir, this House will remember that for over three years I have vehemently and persistently opposed what has been known as the policy of the printing press, vicariously as the policy of created money, as the expansionist policy. I call it the policy of the rake and a policy by which money was spent like water. It was spent regardless of the objective, regardless of the priorities, regardless of the importance of the expenditure to this country. Why this policy was introduced I have explained in the past, and as a non-official I think the Honourable Finance Member was inclined now and then to approve of such protests that I made. Why was this policy pursued? Because the allied armies were in need of goods from our country and they were entitled under the Reserve Bank law to present sterling and to receive any amount of rupees against it, to buy any amount of goods from this country and to use them for their own purposes.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

In other words this country was given a very large dose of inflation and extra notes. It was given recklessly not in the interest of the country itself but in the interest of somebody else. Now, Sir, it was extraordinary that even after the war stopped the note issue went up and kept on going up; even after the war stopped between two and three hundred crores of more notes were issued in this country, and the United Kingdom and the allied Governments were enabled by this means to purchase commodities which were very badly needed for the population of our own land. Sir, we have from time to time protested against the misuse of the constitution of the Reserve Bank of India and in particular section 41. I was expecting that during this session the Finance Member would bring in a law which would definitely put an end to this section. This section authorises any one presenting sterling to the Reserve Bank to receive from the Reserve Bank rupees which he can claim. In other words the Reserve Bank has no option. All that we want is that this link should be broken and that the Reserve Bank will then exercise the option in the interest of this country whether it should give further rupees or not, and if so to whom and for what purpose.

Now, Sir, what has happened is that there is too much purchasing power in this country and we have the vicious spiral of wages and prices chasing one another, with the result that the working classes have been putting up a fight. In the course of that fight there has been disorganisation of production. The fight has been taken up by State services, by public servants, it has been taken up in private industry. There has been a considerable fight on behalf of labour with which we cannot help sympathising because the prices have gone up. Prices have gone up in this country by 300 per cent, individual articles have gone up by 400 per cent, other articles have gone up by 175 per cent. The working men in spite of all their legitimate effort have been able to secure what in my opinion is a currency whose purchasing power is constantly going down. Every week and every month Honourable Members may read in the papers that the index number has gone up. It is true that it is creeping up but it is creeping up. I want the House to compare the inflation in our country with inflation in other countries. In the United Kingdom it has gone up by between 60 and 70 per cent, in the U.S.A. by 55 to 60 per cent, in India it has gone up variously by 180 to 190 per cent over the pre-war average. Now, Sir, this country is so highly inflated that we have to keep in mind the fate that overtook Germany and Russia after the old war which overtook China in this war. In China, as Honourable Members may have heard, prices went up by 200 per cent in the course of one day, in other words all prices were trebled. We are on a precipice not of a very different character, and it is my fear that if something is not done properly and in time we may also reach that condition. Therefore I want Government to realise that an emergency has arisen and we must take strong and bold measures. With regard to this index number I may make it clear, having heard so much of black markets, that it seems to me that the total amount of purchases made in the black markets is actually sizeable; it is not negligible. If so, the index prices are all calculated on the basis of control prices. Have we got all the things that we want at control prices? How many of us have been obliged owing to emergency to buy whatever is available and at whatever prices it is available? In other words the index number is an under-statement of the high prices prevailing in this country; and it is a warning which I want the people and Government to take. It is not a situation to be trifled with. Now, Sir, we have an emergency and we want to act boldly. What do people do when there is an emergency? America had an emergency when the war was declared. Within a matter of weeks, in the first week New York was rationed, within a matter of weeks production went over from peace to war basis; within a matter of weeks two million men were out; the production deliveries were coming out on the earlier

belt, one unit coming out every minute. I do not say that we can emulate those highly organized, highly skilled people in the United States, but in other countries where there are emergencies, Governments are acting boldly, wisely and thoughtfully. They are not acting in the fatalistic spirit in which I find some of the speeches from the Treasury Benches or in the spirit of neglect in which I find some of the answers given to us from the Treasury Benches. These ministers in India appear merely waiting for something to occur somewhere in the world or for somebody to come from outside and arrange matters

4 P.M. for them. But Now we are breaking links with other countries outside, and we are thrown on our own resources. I do want some serious efforts to be made by our Government, some bold experiments must be made. Let them err on the side of boldness rather than excessive regard for caution, excessive regard for what the departmental officials supply them. Some of the Honourable Members come and read here on the floor of the House notes prepared by their Secretaries. That is not satisfactory any longer. Unfortunately the Government Benches do not seem to recognize that there is an economic emergency in this country of a very serious character, and what is that emergency? I cannot go into great details, but I have attempted in the very limited opportunity I get in the course of supplementaries to elicit that production in almost every line in this country has fallen. It has fallen in the current year as compared to the previous year which was a year of greater disequilibrium in the world. This falling of the production is a very serious matter and I have suggested various ways for the consideration of Government. I do not want any Honourable Member from the Treasury Benches to get up and say that every one of the suggestions I am making will be immediately adopted. There may be reasons which are not known to me which may prevent them from adopting some of the measures immediately, but I would very seriously request them to consider whether it is not time to take a bolder line. What is the bold line? What have other countries done under similar situations? What has our own intelligence—the native Indian genius—done in tackling the problem. Let us consider some of the points

Sir, I realize the limitation of time with regard to this debate, and I do not wish to abuse the courtesy of the Chair. Therefore I cannot go into the detail of every one of these measures, but I would say whether it cannot be possible to give in certain cases a bonus for increase in production. The bonus comes out of the people, I agree; it will increase the price to some extent, but it will be a lesser evil. When I heard some of my Honourable friends complaining with regard to shortages, and blackmarket, and corruption, I thought it would be less of an evil than blackmarketing and corruption. Sir, I want this matter to be thought out and thought out if necessary in consultation with labour leaders as to whether it may not be possible to stimulate production for the time being by a certain amount of bonus for extra work

An Honourable Member. To whom?

Mr. Manu Subedar. Bonus to workmen. But, Sir, even that will not increase the price beyond a reasonable limit. There is nothing unusual in this. Recently in their emergency was it not that every class of Englishman offered to work on Sundays. Has it not occurred in other countries? In Germany the coal-miners actually gave up their limitations of hours of work. Do not troops work in an emergency at night? Do we not ourselves for social obligation and other purposes work overtime and work when there is an emergency? Sir, that is one of the directions in which I suggest that effort should be made to increase production.

Then, Sir, this bottleneck about wagons. I have always said that the Army which had the top priority should now come last, and yet as many as 20 to 30 special trains must go for the Army. They hold up lots of wagons.

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they themselves are hopelessly negligent. Why don't the Railway Department put a couple of their top officials and look into the handling of wagons and other things given to the Army, and why don't they ask them to wait until the production emergency is overcome? Let the production matter come first. Why do you hold up coal which is wanted for cloth-making, which is wanted for paper-making, and for so many other things? Merely because there are no wagons. We were told by the Honourable the Supply Member that we shall have to wait for cloth until the machinery arrives. We are told by other people that we must wait until the middle of 1948, or until something else happens. I say that that is not the proper attitude. I am sorry to have to say this to our Government, but it is my duty to say that a bolder measure is wanted if Government recognizes that there is an economic emergency, there is high inflation, there is very high prices, there is blackmarketing, there is corruption, and the cost of living has gone up, and for all middle-class people who have to bring up their sons and daughters it is hell. Recognizing this, I am impelled to take my courage in two hands and to say to the Government of my country "please recognize that there is an emergency, and please act boldly in order to increase production here and now by every possible means. Please revise your notions of priorities in transport; priority in every other article. All unproductive things have to stop until the production machine moves on a little and if we—as my Honourable friend, Mr. Matra very rightly said—"we really desire to suffer for a little while, let us suffer this way, so that it will be a short time suffering."

With regard to increasing the immediate supplies, I have thrown out suggestions with regard to sending out cotton, for example, and getting cloth in return for it. I was glad to see in the papers the other day that Government have entered into some kind of barter arrangement with Japan whereby cotton will go out from here and cloth will come from there. I am happy to see that that suggestion has been adopted, that will immediately relieve the cloth situation. I have also suggested Charter agreements with Continental, South American and other Governments where by a little effort we may find out what we have got more and what they have got more. Double coincidence may not be possible always, but even a triangular transaction may be possible. Why can't this be done? Because we have no representatives. And why have we no representatives? Because of neglect of this Government, and I accuse them for that. This Government does not recognize a production emergency in this country. They are not making all the efforts which intelligent men can make in order to supplement our slender supplies, and they are not mindful—I am sorry to say that—of the public suffering. If they were mindful, I do not know why they have not adopted these measures. Any way we must send some of our best men immediately to other countries in search for anything which we can get in the world which will immediately relieve our supply position.

I have suggested a certain amount of State trading. I do not wish to dilute on this subject for long. It is true that you must establish trade channels and help merchants and so on, but as soon as you say it is an emergency, every merchant must stand aside, and as I say there is an emergency in our country I do not want the import and export trade of this country to be undertaken merely in the interest of private merchants. A merchant buys cloth at one rupee a yard and sells it elsewhere at Rs. 3/- a yard. Why should not the State do it? I want such trading to be done on a large scale in the manner in which Japan was doing it through semi-official associations. The U.K.C.C. did it when they thought that it was an emergency of the state. Even now Sir Stafford Cripps buys out the cotton crop of Egypt. American cotton, sugar crop from Cuba. They used to buy tea. The British Food Member is being reviled because he has bought copra at a high price from

Ceylon. Even now every government is doing it but our Government is a slow moving imperial elephant! They will not do things which every other government in the world is doing. This is an expedient which I have been constantly urging on the Government in supplementaries and it has not been heeded to. I want the Government to examine this matter seriously and I hope they will look into it.

Then as regards the issue of housing. The policy of encouraging housing was advocated last year. I have said once before that the reputation of this Government, which is a popular government composed of all parties, depends on the manner in which they handle the issues of food, clothing, housing and black marketing. Housing is one of the most important things. The Government which was the predecessor to the present Government recognising that housing would serve a very great purpose. It would serve first of all the purpose of solving the problem of a miscellaneous class of unskilled labourers who are in a very large number. When I had a discussion with Sir Archibald Rowlands I pointed out to him that in Bombay city alone as many as 75,000 more persons would get immediate employment if housing facilities and building materials were given and it all arose out of my very strong opposition to the grant of eight crores of rupees for resettlement in the Standing Finance Committee. I told him that he was going to waste all this money, that they were going to throw it away.

Mr. Deputy President The Honourable Member has one minute more but I would allow him a little more time if necessary.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Thank you Sir. I shall be very brief. I am sorry to say that in the matter of providing facilities for private buildings the Government has entirely failed. They profess an interest in the poor but it is the poor, whose field of employment is involved in the measures which I am suggesting, measures for extra production, and for extra housing.

I want steel to be rolled. The big steel companies do not want to do it, just as it was pointed out that some mills do not like to produce certain kinds of cloth because they have very little margin in them. So also the steel companies do not like to roll thin sections and bars of steel. I suggested in the Standing Committee that 100,000 tons of round bars should be rolled immediately in absolute priority. Take the Government department which have a programme for building and as much as 8,000 tons of timber was required by the octopus, viz., Sindri Factory. I am sure they would not use it for the next two or three years. This would help private building. Whereas a big house would need 50 tons of timber an ordinary house would require about ten tons only. The Government departments are following a dog in the manger policy, when they talk of a building programme of their own and some of these departments are recklessly planning to build and they are reserving steel, timber, cement and every thing else for government purposes. If facilities are provided for private building that in its turn would create the greatest amount of employment. The whole point is have we got a policy. Are we trying to stop the high prices? Are we trying to stop them in an intelligent manner or are we waiting for an abrupt and catastrophic fall, which I am sure is doubtless coming. Inflate more and more and it is sure to come down abruptly spelling ruin to all. I have no doubt that Government are probably giving their thought to this subject but unfortunately those thoughts have not reached us. I would be very happy if on some of the topics that I have mentioned Government are able to make clear their policy. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri Sri Prakasa: Mr. Deputy President, it is rather difficult for persons like me to intervene in any debate, for I find every body here suspects every body else's motives. If a person says something in favour of a proposition he is suspected of having some personal interest; and if somebody else says something against that proposition, he is again suspected of some other motive.

My respected friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir the other day, while we were discussing some banking legislation, said that only those members of the House would support small banks and sympathise with their difficulties, who were fond of speculating themselves. Then, Sir, this afternoon, the Honourable the Supply Member said that if a small trader who has not got a license came to him and said that he wanted decontrolling, he would suspect his motive, and if a big trader who has got a license, came to him and said that control should be continued, he would still suspect his motive. It was some relief for me to find that the only exception that he would make—and I congratulate him for having made it—was in favour of his own officials who, he said and affirmed with a vigour worthy of a better cause, should never be suspected of any evil designs, even if any step on his part would result in their immediate dismissal. In circumstances like these it is difficult for a person like me, who tries to live a simple honest life to say anything without being deliberately suspected of meaning something wrong and wicked.

I have said on a previous occasion that I was myself not at all fond of experts, and if I approach this problem I can only approach it as a layman, as an ordinary man in the street. I do not know economics. I do not understand finance. But one thing I do understand if the amount of things available is limited; and if there is a mass of money at my disposal with which I can buy those things, and if I am in need of those things, I am going to pay that enormous sum of money in order to get that limited supply of things that I need. I argue in this way. There are certain amounts of goods available in this world. There is an immense amount of money lying about artificially created by the Reserve Bank with the help of the Nasik Press, to buy these goods, and I am in need of the goods that are available. The price of the goods is bound to go up, when there is a mass of money available to buy those goods. Prices can never go down—they will always soar high—where there are masses of money lying about. This simple fact was never put more succinctly and convincingly than by a simple villager who came to buy a blanket at the Gandhi Ashram in Benares. The mention of the Gandhi Ashram shop might wake in the heart of the Honourable the Supply Members some memories and evoke some sympathy. The man asked for a blanket. My friend, the Ashram worker, thinking that he was a poor man and could not afford a blanket worth more than Rs. 10, brought out a blanket of that value. Thereupon the man asked, "Have you not got anything more expensive than this?" He had money and he wanted to pay more for a blanket. The man brought out a blanket worth Rs. 15, another worth Rs. 20 and still another worth Rs. 25. The villager ultimately purchased the blanket worth Rs. 25 and counted out the money immediately on the nail, the money of course being in paper currency. He turned round and said, "This Government is really a fine Government. It has given the paper money. If today I had to count twenty five rupees in solid silver, I could never have done it; but giving away this paper money means nothing." This is the situation that has been brought about by inflation, by the creation of artificial money.

Sir, there has been a great deal said in this House by the wealthy and the well-placed, about the poverty of the masses in whose interests they say they are working. We were told that all the controls for instance are in the interests of the poor who could not get the goods of which they stood in need. I have

given my own analysis of the genesis of these controls; and I have come definitely to the conclusion, as I stated yesterday, that the controls were meant so that the wealthy, the well-placed, the influential and the powerful could get all the things they wanted at cheap rates: they were never meant to help the poor and they do not and cannot do that either. So far as the poor are concerned, they are where they were; and they have to go to other places in order to get the goods that they need. They get those things in the black market because they have got the paper money that is flowing about the country in great abundance. If the Nasik press under the auspices of the Reserve Bank is going to produce 18 crores of paper rupees every week, well then money becomes very cheap and the goods naturally become very expensive. Therefore something has got to be done in order to stop this scandal.

My honourable friend Mr. Subedar is an expert in these matters and he has put the situation in his own inimitable style, no doubt bringing conviction to those who understand these things better than I can do. But I have seen the scandal of this cheap artificial paper money flowing about the country, at work, and I do think that the time has come when it should stop. If the poor today were really better off than they were before, there could be some consolation and satisfaction, but their condition remains the same even when they can pay Rs. 25 for a blanket as I have described. Here in Delhi we see no end of splendour. The laws that restrict parties to 25 persons and dinners of not more than three courses may be enforced elsewhere but not here in Delhi. Here people go about from lunch to tea and then to dinner and while they stuff themselves up all the time, their chauffeurs in their motor cars outside are not even given a glass of cold water. And they say they are very sympathetic to the poor.

I come, Sir, from a feudal class. I am not ashamed to belong to the feudal class. There you would never think of not feeding the servant of the guest who has been invited. You know that, Sir, because you and I belong to the same Province and to the same class. We feed the servant before we feed the master. But here I see the chauffeurs cursing their masters outside to their heart's content for gorging themselves and never thinking that they too need some food. The people inside may stay on after a big banquet, for a dance and continue to enjoy themselves, but the poor servants outside must remain where they are starved and uncared for. Such gentlemen come and tell us that they are very sympathetic to the poor. It is very difficult to understand their attitude or to sympathise with their sentiments.

Mr. Tamiruddin Khan (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural). Is that increasing inflation?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Yes. All this is the result of inflation and cheap money. This is the situation. The rich have really been made richer and the whole problem has got complicated because of this artificial money. I hope, Sir, that Government will now take steps to stop the printing of more currency notes, that it will heed the advice that my Honourable friend Mr. Subedar has given. I hope Mr. Subedar himself will also heed my advice for once and withdraw his cut motion in the end.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Mr. Deputy President, Sir, this vice of inflation came to be introduced into this country as an invariable concomitant of the war through which we have just passed. The House will recall or at least those Members who were Members of the last Assembly will recall that with the entry of Japan into the war a situation was created in this country which left the Government no alternative but to inflate the currency. With the increasing tempo of the war the Government found no other way to foot the bill for the enormous volume of goods and services that were required in this country for carrying the war to successful termination. I therefore am

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra]

inclined to think that this inflation which has now become almost a part of our economic life is not merely an accidental fortuitous circumstance. On the other hand I am inclined to think that it was not only due to economic causes, to interplay of all manner of economic factors, but it was due to a definite design. It was a planned inflation. I am sorry to have to say so. I will at once invite criticism for this view but may I remind the House that the Finance Member of those days who had the charge of financing the cost of war of what they said in reply to a heated debate on this point. If I remember aright, Mr. Deputy President, you also took part in that important debate in which we challenged the Government of the day that they had been pursuing a policy which would eventually ruin the economic structure of the country. We suggested ways and means. We implored them to take measures to checking that inflationary process but as I was telling the House in connection with another motion a few minutes ago, instead of crying a halt, the Government went on indefinitely creating money by the mere process of what is called in economic parlance, pumping money indefinitely into circulation without reference to the metallic cover. Today the position is that the sterling balances at the credit of India stand at 1783 crores and I ask the House to remember what it means. Inflation is not an easy matter to understand nor is it easy to check it. It means that the tremendous sufferings and sacrifices India had undergone were paid for in paper against sterling accumulating in Great Britain. In accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, the Reserve Bank had no other alternative but to print notes indefinitely from the different printing presses against the accumulating balances. We were told in those days—what else could the Government of India do when the two major political parties in this country were not disposed to support the British Government in this war. There was a limited supply of goods and there was no other course left to the Government of the day than to capture the goods by giving inflated prices and it is only by this method that they could get goods and services for the prosecution of the war. Now, the need for it is over. The war has come to a successful termination. Immediately after the cessation of hostilities with Japan I brought it to the notice of the then Finance Member that he should forthwith adopt stringent measures for checking inflation, which would otherwise lead to untold suffering. You will remember that in the House of Lords and House of Commons there was a debate on the Bengal famine and the eminent economists of Great Britain in the House of Commons held the view that the deaths of millions of people in Bengal could be traced directly to the inflated currency of the country. There might be an element of exaggeration in it but when all is said and done it was indeed a fact that the consumers of this country were placed in possession of huge sums of money against a very limited supply of goods. The purchasing power was very high and it was not created by any natural process of economic evolution but artificially in order that the war machinery might go on.

We tried to impress on the Government that immediate steps should be taken to check the inflationary tendencies. First of all they issued the Defence of India Bonds. It did not evoke sufficient response. Then they issued the National Defence Bonds. Now they are issuing the National Savings Certificates. That has come to stay. Then they began the control of capital issues. That served the purpose to a certain extent but they could not make available to the people at large the increased volume of goods and commodities that are required in our normal day to day existence. The needs of the consumers were left in cold storage.

Now the situation is completely transformed. I know the difficulties of switching over from war time to peace time economy. Unless you can stop this vicious circle, you will go on having increased prices, demand for greater

wages and further increased prices and so on. You have got to break that vicious circle. You have done nothing so far except follow a policy of masterly inactivity and drift. I am not accusing my friends over there who took charge only four months ago. This inflation is a matter which has been going on for a long time. I am quite sensible of that. As a result of the policy we have been pursuing, we have been moving round and round that miserable vicious circle. The time has now definitely come to cry a halt to this process.

The main thing we recommend is that Government should at once strive to place at the disposal of the immunity a much larger volume of commodities. In other words as my friend Mr. Subedar was suggesting, we want production and more production.

I was referring to the situation in America. There the situation has been definitely controlled because of greater production. In this country, unless you can give a tremendous drive towards production and expansion of activities which would absorb the redundant currency in the land, the poor Finance Member will not be able to go very far. There was a proposed building programme. Purely viewing it as a humble student of economics, I feel that that was a very proper move, a move which was calculated to mop up the extra purchasing power in the hands of some people and especially industrialists and indirectly benefiting the community by the provision of good housing accommodation. But there was the bottleneck of shortage of building materials and we could not go very far.

Now, in the Budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Member, he has made certain provisions for the building programme but that does not touch even the fringe of the whole problem. For the purpose of increased production, I think all the efforts of the different departments of the Government should be directed in such a way that they are capable of a tremendous drive for the production of building materials, cement, production and transport of coal, production of cloth, increased circulation of kerosene, petrol and all kinds of consumer goods which would help to absorb the currency lying idle with the people. I quite see that in a few months such a policy cannot be adopted by the Government because of the inherent difficulties and because of the numerous obstacles that stand in the way. I have had to depend for my information on some of the departmental reports of the Government as I was away from the Assembly for nearly a year and a half and I lost touch with it. I now find that the Government of today is in no better position; but it must bear in mind that if they now pursue a policy of *laissez faire* and a policy of indifference and apathy with regard to this matter and think that the prices would find their own level, they would be living in a paradise of illusions. You are all aware of the tremendous economic collapse that affected the whole world in 1929-30. The position then was that there was a glut of goods in the international market and there were no consumers and prices went down. And it took a number of years of patient constructive work by all the different nations of the world to bring about the economic rehabilitation of the world. In this country, we all know, we were left to depend on India's inherent power of recuperation, but today that will not do. Today we must realise that if we have to wait for four or five years when our goods will be in full supply, then those who are in authority ought to realise that by that time all other competing countries in the world would be producing goods in enormous quantities, and then will start a period of deflation the result of which I shudder to think. Sir, I support this motion.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member). Mr. Deputy President, I have listened to the debate with very great care and very great attention and I am entirely at one with my Honourable friends who have expressed their great concern over the inflation that has been going on in this

[Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan]

country. Now, Sir, Mr. Maatra has rightly pointed out that this is not a matter which any Government could put right in a few days or few months. It is not that if the Government took some decision and passed orders, inflation would stop automatically. I listened to the speeches of my Honourable friends Mr. Manu Subedar and Mr. Maatra very attentively and was looking out for some concrete suggestions which would be helpful in fighting inflation. Barring one or two suggestions which were given by Mr. Manu Subedar, I did not find anything in the speeches of the Honourable Members except generalisations. We all know that to fight inflation one of the methods is greater production. But you cannot produce more without having the implements to do so. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar was rather annoyed at the reply of my colleague, the Member for Industries and Supplies, that he could not get machinery and therefore the production could not be increased. Now, I do not know what method my friend would suggest for us to get machinery quicker than what we have been trying.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I shall give my Honourable friend a copy of the Bombay report which shows how to produce more cloth in this country long before the new machinery arrives.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I think probably my Honourable friend is perhaps thinking of having another shift in the factories.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I will give you a copy of the report which will give you all the information.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I shall greatly welcome it. Let me tell my Honourable friends that the Government are most anxious to fight this evil of inflation. Honourable Members are fully aware that it was on account of the emergency of war that there had to be an issue of currency in very large amount. The Government of the day had to meet the requirements of the war. Whether it was India's war or not is only an academic question. India's resources were used to fight that war and the Government of the day did everything that they could to get those resources of India mobilised in favour of the Allies and their war effort. It is true that the accumulation of the sterling balances is a direct result of it. I am not here to defend the actions of the past Government. I am really concerned with the actions of the present Government since it has assumed office. I cannot be held responsible and none of my colleagues can be held responsible for the acts of commission or omission of our predecessors. Therefore, what I really want the Honourable Members to do is to make concrete suggestions and we would welcome them. I would also welcome general condemnation if by means of that we could fight inflation.

Mr. Manu Subedar has made one or two very useful suggestions. One suggestion that he has made is of giving bonus to producers for increased production. I think that is a suggestion which should be considered in all its aspects and should be considered very carefully. Then, my Honourable friend has made another suggestion about State trading. Now, that is rather a complicated question. I think it may be possible for the State to trade in certain articles so far as export trade was concerned but I do not know whether State trading should take the place of private enterprise altogether.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I did not suggest State trading for internal purposes; I suggested it for external purposes.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Surely, my Honourable friend does not expect me to say anything definite on this occasion with regard to such an important matter. The third point that he has raised is with regard to housing and building programmes. Now, Sir, as far as that goes, Honourable Members are aware that Government themselves have been carrying out a

very huge building programme. We have in front of us a very large programme of work. But the difficulty is shortage of building materials. Now, Sir, here my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar suggested that Government should provide facilities to private persons to secure building materials because the Government themselves were not in a position to utilise all the materials that were available themselves. In this connection apart from this fact whether Government is in a position or is not in a position personally I think that Government's programme of building is so large that whatever material is available can be used and will not be sufficient even for governmental purposes. But keeping in view this fact that some building material should be made available for private individuals, I have myself in one or two cases when demands came from provincial governments for putting up new buildings and wanting money from the Central Government, pressed upon them not to carry out the programme which was not immediately necessary because of the shortage of material and if all the available material was to be used up by Government, then private persons will not be able to build anything. I have myself discouraged it and in one case so far I have resisted the grant of money for a very large scheme of building in a particular province.

Sir, I have said it before and I say it again that one of the proposals for fighting inflation to a certain extent is my taxation proposals. Those, I believe will to a certain extent help to cut down inflation.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: That is a double edged weapon. It will cut both ways.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Anyhow I do not want to dilate upon taxation proposals in this debate. We will come to them later on when we discuss those particular measures.

Sir, there is one point that has been raised by Mr. Manu Subedar and by Shri Sri Prakasa more forcefully and it was the question of issue of currency notes. I have said in reply to certain questions that were put to me by some of the Honourable Members that practically since this Government has taken over there has been no increase of any consequence in the circulation of notes.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What is the amount of new notes printed every week?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: That will not help you because new notes are printed to replace the old ones which have come back from circulation.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it not a fact that you have printed notes for 100 crores since you came into office?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I do not think it is so much as that.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Of course replacement question is there, I agree.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Of course I cannot claim that we have succeeded as soon as we came to office in fighting inflation. What I do claim is that we have succeeded to some extent, of course not to our satisfaction, and I do not want Honourable Members to go away with this idea that we are satisfied that we have succeeded to any considerable extent, but at least we have succeeded in not letting it increase very much.

A lot has been said about controls. My Honourable colleague the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies had dealt with that question very ably, and if I may say so, very firmly. I do not think that you would really stop inflation by removing controls. That I think is not a correct proposition. As a matter of fact control is one of the methods of checking inflation.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: It was originally so.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: It is still necessary till you have sufficient amount of goods. I may tell my Honourable friend that if you remove controls altogether, you will have greater trouble than what you have today.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Only for a short period

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: That of course is a matter of opinion. There may be some Honourable Members who may feel otherwise, but all the economic actors go to support the contention that I have put forward. It is indeed a matter of very great importance to everybody in the country and especially to the poorer classes. I can assure Honourable Members that Members of Government are not unmindful of this particular situation.

Now, I may point out that the policy we are following of borrowing is also one of the measures to fight inflation.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: At a higher rate of interest of course

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The policy of going on with our small savings scheme is also another measure to fight inflation. In this connection, I may inform Honourable Members that we are putting this scheme on a more permanent basis and on a better footing. I mean the small savings scheme. The idea is, and I hope I shall be able as soon as the whole scheme is ready, to circulate a note to Honourable Members for their information, but the trouble so far has been that our small savings scheme has not really reached the small man in the rural areas. The methods that we have adopted so far have not been of the type which would help in getting the maximum benefit out of this scheme. The idea at present is, and the new scheme is being framed on these lines, to encourage this habit of saving in the remotest village of the country. I hope that with drive and initiative and public support this scheme would be successful. That would be another method of fighting this demon of inflation.

Sir, my Honourable friend Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra has suggested that the Government should place a large volume of goods in the market. We have been trying to import goods from outside as much as possible. In this connection, I would not say that all the imports have been of the best kind of goods that were needed in the country. This matter I referred to in my budget speech. We do want that there should be less import of luxury goods and more import of necessary goods. Sir, all these actions are being taken by Government. Government are not satisfied with the position, and all that I need say and can say is that we will do everything that is possible. Instead of this general discussion—which is also useful—I would welcome any concrete suggestion from any quarter, a suggestion which is feasible and possible, any proposal which it is possible to carry out for the purpose of fighting inflation, and we as Government are entirely at one with the Honourable Members of this House at fighting this demon of inflation with all the power that we can command.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, as the objective of Government and this side of the House is the same, in spite of the fact that neither the Finance Member nor myself feel that we have covered the whole ground I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR THE PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES ON CERTAIN BILLS

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member). Sir, I move

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the reports of the Select Committees on the following Bills, namely:

- (1) the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-Tax Act, 1922, and the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940;
- (2) the Bill to impose a special tax on a certain class of income; and
- (3) the Bill to provide for an investigation into matters relating to taxation on income,

be extended up to the 19th March, 1947."

Honourable Members will remember that these Bills were referred to Select Committees on 5th March. After that we had holidays for four days and since then the House has been sitting every day and it has not been possible for the Select Committee to meet till after the meeting of the Assembly. The time has been very short and naturally our progress could not be as we expected. I therefore move that the time may be extended to the 19th March.

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the reports of the Select Committees on the following Bills, namely:

- (1) the Bill further to amend the Indian Income Tax Act, 1922, and the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940;
- (2) the Bill to impose a special tax on a certain class of income, and
- (3) the Bill to provide for an investigation into matters relating to taxation on income,

be extended up to the 19th March, 1947."

Sir Cwajsee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, since this motion has become necessary I should like to know how it will fit in with the original programme of this House. I presume that the discussion on the Finance Bill will start on the 19th. If so, it means that the reports of the Select Committee will not be in our hands when we start discussion; and it will also mean that the general discussion on the Finance Bill will have to be finished before we take up the Select Committee's reports. So the programme will be altered to a great extent. I should like to know from the Finance Member how he proposes to settle the programme and how it will fit in with the original programme.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, it was intended that the discussion on the Finance Bill should start on the 19th, and my Honourable friend is perfectly right in saying that these Bills will not be taken into consideration until after we have disposed of the Finance Bill. By this motion that I have made I do not think our programme will be very much upset. I cannot say definitely but it may be necessary to start discussion on the Finance Bill on the 20th instead of the 19th, and I do not think it will be necessary to make any very serious changes in the programme that was fixed. It is our intention that the reports of the Select Committees should be in the hands of Honourable Members before the discussion on the Finance Bill starts.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions, Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I oppose this motion. The holidays were not suddenly sprung upon us nor was the programme of the Assembly suddenly drawn up. The Honourable Finance Member knew very well that these holidays would intervene and also that this Assembly would sit from day to day. It was originally proposed that the Select Committee should report by the 14th March, and in view of the fact that they are not able to report in time I propose that the Bills may be regarded as having lapsed.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the reports of the Select Committees on the following Bills, namely:

- (1) the Bill further to amend the Indian Income Tax Act, 1922, and the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940;
- (2) the Bill to impose a special tax on a certain class of income, and
- (3) the Bill to provide for an investigation into matters relating to taxation on income,

be extended up to the 19th March, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 14th March, 1947.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 14th March, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

TRADE DELEGATION TO MIDDLE EAST.

936. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether Government intend to send a trade delegation to the Middle East for exploring the possibilities of India's export trade; and

(b) if so, when this delegation would leave India?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b) The Trade Delegation left Karachi for the Middle East on the 9th March

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

937. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the term of service of the High Commissioner for India in London, his salary and allowances?

(b) What is the date of appointment of the present incumbent and the approximate date when his successor will be appointed?

(c) What is the yearly expenditure of the High Commissioner's office in London?

(d) Is any part of the expenditure met by His Majesty's Government? If so, how much?

(e) What is the total number of officers and clerks employed in the office and what are their positions?

(f) How many of them are Indians, and how many are Muslims?

(g) What is the number of non-Indians?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) The High Commissioner for India London, is appointed for a period not exceeding five years but is eligible for re-appointment. He receives a pay of £3,000 per annum, an entertainment allowance of £1,000 per annum and an equipment allowance of £250 at the time of his joining the appointment if at the date of his appointment he is habitually resident in India. He is also allowed a car at Government expense and a free furnished house but the maintenance charges of the house are paid by him upto a limit of £250 per annum.

(b) 10th June, 1943. His present term expires in June, 1948.

(c) A statement furnishing the revised estimate of expenditure for the current year and the budget estimates for the next year is laid on the table. (Statement I.)

(d) No, Sir.

(e), (f) and (g). A statement is laid on the table. (Statement II.)

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Statement I

[14TH MAR. 1947]

Details of the High Commissioner's Establishment Charges.

Sub-head	Revised Estimates 1946-47	Budget Estimates 1947-48
	Rs.	Rs.
B. 1. General Public Accounts and Education Departments.	22,60,000	22,75,000
B. 2. Colonial Departmental charges for issue of leave pay etc.	8,000	8,000
B. 3. Stores Department	29,15,000	29,90,000
B. 4. Trade Department	2,00,000	2,37,000
B. 5. India Supply Commission	4,81,000	4,92,000
B. 6. Publicity Organisation in London . . . . .	....	92,000
	58,64,000	59,03,000
B. 7. Deduct Recoveries—		
(1) Surcharges on Stores	—25,43,000	—50,36,000
(2) Provincial Government share of the cost of High Commissioner's Establishment.	—6,52,000	—6,52,000
(3) Inspection Charges on Stores, supplied on contracts placed in India.	—6,000	—20,000
Net amount chargeable to Central Revenues.	26,63,000	25,00,000

Statement II

Total strength	Designations	Indians	Muslims	Non-Indians
Officers 270	High Commissioner	1		
	Dy. High Commissioner	1		
	India Trade Commissioner, London	1		
	Heads of Department Deputy and Assistant	6	78	10
	Heads of Departments Controlling Superintending & Principal Executive Officers	8	N. B.—Four posts are vacant	
	Higher Executive Officers	26		188
	Executive Officers	52		
	Higher Clerical Officers	88		
	Seamen's Welfare Officers and Assistants	29		
	Technical Officers and Inspectors of Stores	6		
	Director, India Supply Commission	44		
	Deputy Director, India Supply Commission	1		
	Assistant Director, India Supply Commission	1		
	Senior Staff Officers	3		
clerks 351		39	5	312

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What proportion of the officers and clerks employed there are Indians?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The number of Indian clerks employed there is very small—only about 44 out of 351—because the old establishment was being continued and non-Indians were already in service. It is difficult to send Indians from here at this time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the officers? Your answer covers only one portion of my question.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I have mentioned about the officers also in the statement. There are 89 Indian officers as against 188 non-Indian officers.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask what is the difficulty of sending Indians from here to that office particularly in view of the fact that there is great unemployment in India since the war is over? Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of sending Indians from here because after all that office is a permanent office?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: People who are on the permanent establishment of that office will have to be given a certain notice and the question of payment of compensation may have to be considered. There are various other difficulties, but the question will be considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that most of the Indian Clerks happen to be very highly qualified—Barristers-at-Law—whereas the English clerks generally have only London Matriculation qualification?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The qualifications are taken into consideration only at the time of appointment, but those people who are already in service cannot be dismissed unless we lay down new standards. I may inform the Honourable Member that the question of reorganisation of this office is under consideration.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is a fact that other foreign offices in London have 90 per cent of their staff recruited from their own countries?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I cannot answer the question off hand because I shall have to make enquiries.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is it not a fact that the high proportion of the non-Indian element in the staff there is due to the fact that we had to take over quite a large number of Britishers from the India Office as a kind of a legacy when the India House was organized?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That is true about the initial stage.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member examine the legal and constitutional position in regard to dispensing with the services of many of these officers and clerks and whether we have to pay any compensation at all, and if so how much, and also how much notice will be necessary?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That question will be examined.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask from the Honourable Member if the staff consists of only Covenantanted Civil Servants in which case only compensation will have to be paid?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I believe, subject to a few exceptions, they are not Covenantanted Civil Servants.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then their services can be terminated by giving them six months notice.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That question will be examined along with other questions.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Would the Honourable Member immediately withdraw all the Indian clerks so that foreign peoples may not know that we are only a nation of clerks and we should know that Europeans also can be clerks.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The Honourable Member seems to overlook the fact that we have 88 Indian officers as against 44 clerks there.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I want all the 44 clerks to be withdrawn.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he would consider the urgency and importance of instituting a service on similar lines as the India Foreign Service so that Indians may not be sent only to London, but may also be employed in all other trade offices in other countries?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Naturally with the constitution of the Indian Foreign Service, the two will have to go together.

RESUMPTION OF STEAMER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST COAST OF INDIA.

938. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether steamer communication between the east and west coasts of India has been resumed, and if so, whether it has come up to the pre-war level?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to have regular steamer communication resumed on the west coast between Bombay and North and South Kanara?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Steamer communication between the East and West Coasts of India was never interrupted. The question of its resumption, therefore, does not arise. Under the control system adequate tonnage is now available for lifting all cargoes offering though it cannot be said that the pre-war level has been attained.

(b) From September 1946, regular passenger and cargo sailings have been re-established between Bombay and the ports in North and South Kanara. This service cannot be brought up to the pre-war level except after the release of three steamers of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company, which are still under requisition and undergoing extensive repairs prior to their return to owners.

INDIAN PILGRIMS TO HEJAZ.

939. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state the total number of deaths among the Indian pilgrims to Hejaz in 1946?

(b) Have any representations been received by Government from the pilgrims in regard to shipping facilities, accommodation on board the ship, food arrangements, etc. and if so, do Government propose to take steps to improve the conditions of travel?

(c) What was the cost of first class fare for each pilgrim by air?

(d) What was the rate of exchange at which the Saudi dues were collected?

(e) What was the current rate of exchange between the Rupee and the Riyal in the Hejaz, and what was the official rate of exchange fixed for the payment of the Saudi Arabian dues?

(f) What is the amount of estimated loss incurred by the pilgrims as a result of this fixation of higher rate of exchange?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) 501.

(b) Some representations of this nature have been received. Provision of greater shipping facilities will take time; but Government did provide an extra ship this year. Berthed accommodation is going to be introduced in the ships. Complaints about food have arisen mainly from the enforcement of rationing and from the acute food shortage in this country. No permanent relief will be

possible until the food situation improves; in the meanwhile Government will do their best to improve the position.

(c) Rs. 4,000 was realised by Government from each pilgrim, i.e., by Air There were no classes. The net fare, however, comes to Rs. 3,472/4/-. After deducting Saudi Quarantine fee and this fare, the balance will be refunded to applicants in the near future.

(d) and (e). The Saudi Arabian Government declared and collected their tariff from Indian pilgrims in rupees and not in rials. The question of official rate of exchange did not therefore arise in this connection. The market rate of exchange between rupee and rial is reported to have varied between 70 and 90 rials for 100 rupees during the pilgrimage season.

(f) It is difficult to calculate the loss incurred by the Indian pilgrims because of their having to pay in rupees.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is a fact that the Government was committed to provide certain facilities to Hajis but during the war these facilities could not be provided due to lack of shipping space, and as shipping has now been resumed, will Government give an assurance that all these facilities will be given to Hajis?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what facilities the Honourable Member is referring to. The chief facilities are accommodation, and no other. As a matter of fact this question has come up repeatedly at question time. Last year we tried our utmost to provide the fullest accommodation possible and we ultimately succeeded in sending over 21,000 pilgrims. Actually the applicants were more than that. We engaged a special ship and we have got into some difficulties now in regard to paying compensation to that ship because having engaged it it was not full at the last moment. People did not come in time. Although the applicants were many they did not turn up in time and it went not quite full. The main difficulty is shipping. We simply cannot produce the ships. We have tried to get them from various sources, including America. We are told that in the next season the Moghul Lane and the Scindia lane will provide extra ships but they are not yet certain. Even so, I am not quite sure that they will suffice. We have not yet been able to build new ships.

There is yet another difficulty. According to the Merchant Shipping Act or some other act we have to provide a certain minimum of accommodation for each pilgrim. We did not adhere to that Act wholly in order to provide more accommodation but we have now decided to adhere to it strictly (which is good) but that again diminishes the accommodation available to the other pilgrims.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With regard to the answer to part (c) of the question, in view of the fact that the amount charged for an air trip both ways was about Rs. 4,000, which was considered to be rather very prohibitive by many pilgrims, may I inquire from the Honourable Member whether Government would be good enough to start negotiations with the air company, so that by the next Haj season this rate would be brought down considerably and many pilgrims may take advantage of it and travel by air in the next season?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly we can start negotiations but it is difficult to negotiate in the absence of certain knowledge as to how many people want to travel by air. It will be a vague negotiation. On the last occasion what happened was one full air ship went and another was engaged but it was not full and we got into difficulties on account of that.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question, is it not a fact that the spiritual value of such a pilgrimage is greatly diminished if it is made in such comfort?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government is a temporal Government and not a spiritual government.

STRANDED HAJ PILGRIMS AT BASRAH.

940. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state whether Government are aware that about 250 Indian pilgrims returning from the Haj pilgrimage have been stranded in Basrah for the past one month and, if so, the reasons thereof?

(b) Is it a fact that they are without funds or food?

(c) Is it a fact that 500 others are held up at Karbala for want of steamer accommodation?

(d) How long will these pilgrims be detained at Basrah and Karbala?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to bring them to India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) In mid-February it was reported that there were about 600 Indian Shia pilgrims awaiting repatriation from Basrah. There are no standing arrangements in force for Shia pilgrims visiting the holy places in Iran and Iraq, principally because the pilgrimage is not confined to any particular period of the year. Large numbers of these Shia pilgrims also go by the overland route through Iran.

On return from Iraq the pilgrims generally rely on obtaining passages to India on the mail ships, and, because there are still fewer ships operating on the Persian Gulf route than in pre-war days, there has inevitably been congestion and delay in Basrah.

(b) The Government of India have sanctioned suitable maintenance grants for destitute pilgrims since December last year.

(c) Government have no information of the numbers of pilgrims waiting at Kerbela, as distinct from those at Basra.

(d) and (e). The *S. S. Islami* is reported to have sailed from Basrah for Karachi and Bombay on the 5th March, with 1,255 pilgrims.

ADVERSE TRADE BALANCES DUE TO IMPORTS.

941. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether Government are aware of the possibility of adverse trade balances arising out of importation of food, excessive purchase of consumer's goods by shopkeepers and the importation of capital goods with reduced exports on the whole?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take in order to meet this situation due course?

(c) What are the figures of trade balances during 1945-46 and 1946-47 upto the last date for which figures are available?

(d) How much food import is scheduled during the next year in quantity and value?

(e) In which item of export is an increase anticipated during the current year and the next three years?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of checking the import of unessential consumer goods, the volume of which is at present left to individual initiative?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b). Yes, if the Honourable Member's presumption is correct, but the situation is being closely watched and necessary steps will be taken at the appropriate time.

(c) I lay on the table a statement showing India's visible balance of trade on private account in merchandise and treasure during the year 1945-46 and the first seven months of 1946-47.

(d) It is not possible to make any estimate of the foodgrains we shall be able

to import.

(e) While it is difficult to anticipate with any degree of accuracy likely increases under particular items of export during the current year and the next three years, a certain number of manufactures have developed before and during the war, such as to mention only a few leather goods, manufacture of sport goods, cutlery, products of hosiery industry, stationery, cement and porcelain industry, carpet and coir rope. Government will take all necessary steps to increase their exports with a view to improve trade balance. As a result of liberalisation of export control, exports of hides, raw cotton, non-essential vegetable oilseeds and oils, jute and jute manufactures and wool may also show an increase during the period mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(f) Except those covered by the Open General Licences, imports of other consumer goods are permitted under a licensing system. Honourable Member's proposal is, however, already under examination.

for during 1945-46

	1945-46	1946-47 (Seven months, April to October 1946)
	R (lakh-)	R (lakh-)
Exports of Indian merchandise (private)	+ 2,41.85	+ 151.57
Re-exports of foreign " "	+ 23.62	+ 16.07
Imports of foreign " "	- 2,41.52 (a)	- 1,45.75 (a)
Balance of trade in merchandise	+ 23.95	+ 21.89
Gold (private)	+ 28	- 62
Silver (private)	- 20	- 3.84
Currency notes (private)	+ 6.26	+ 81
Balance of transactions in treasure (private)	+ 6.34	- 3.65
Total visible balance of trade	+ 30.39	+ 18.24

(a) Exclusive of the value of Railway materials (amounting to Rs 100) imported direct by State Railways working under company management which was not paid for in the ordinary way and not, therefore, taken into account in arriving at the balance of trade

Mr. Manu Subedar: Apart from the open general licenses, a large number of negotiations are on foot and until a firm credit is opened it is not possible for the Reserve Bank to have information. May I know whether Government will now take steps through other means for even checking of negotiations for goods which are going on on a very large scale, in order to achieve the same end which Government also have in view?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It would be difficult, nay, impossible, for Government to check such negotiations. It is only at the stage when an application is made for exchange for certain purposes that either the Government or the Reserve Bank can come in and it is at that stage that Government propose, to utilise their powers to make the best possible use of our exchange capacity.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Do Government propose to reduce the import of such goods which do not require hard currency?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There are certain essential consumer goods which we have to import even from hard currency countries for the purpose of giving our people an opportunity to purchase their essential requirements. Some complaints have been received regarding very large imports of certain items and steps are being taken to stop further imports of such articles. The import licenses were valid for two shipping periods. One shipping period is of half a year. A proposal is under consideration to reduce their validity to one shipping period, so that we may be in a position to watch the arrival of goods from foreign countries and to check their import when found necessary.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: My question related to those countries where the currency is easy and from which we can import without a license.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: If it is an easy currency country, the same considerations apply *viz.*, that only those goods which are essential and in short supply, they are allowed to be imported freely. But in cases where imports even from easy currency countries are likely to affect either our industries or our economy, they are kept under a licensing system.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the visible imports are so small and, on the other hand, the invisible imports are so large, what steps are Government taking in order to check and control the invisible imports?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: A check is being kept for the purpose of approximating both.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: My question has not been understood. I wanted to know whether consumer goods have flooded Indian markets from easy currency countries and what steps are being taken to stop or reduce the import of those goods.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That is very easy. If this happens, the articles will be taken off from the open general license and placed on the licensed list.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maltra: What is the policy of the Government with regard to imports from sterling area countries and hard currency countries. Is there any preference shown to sterling area countries?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Yes, the preference is due to the shortage of hard currency available to us and if the available hard currency is of a limited amount, we have to make the best possible use of it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if it is the policy of the Government to allow larger imports from the sterling area countries, so that the sterling balances may be liquidated?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: We have certain arrangements regarding the sterling balances. Sterling balances up to a particular amount cannot be touched at present. The whole question depends on what is the sterling balance available to us for use in a particular year and what is the hard currency available to us and the imports are regulated with a view to make the best possible use of both these currencies.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the English books are priced at enormous rates and so much of literature which is not needed and which even injurious to the people of this country is being imported into this country, will Government take steps to regulate the import of the various books that are coming from England which is in the easy currency area?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It would be difficult to appoint a censor to decide which books should be allowed to be imported, and we certainly do not want to stop import of books which are medium for the dissemination of knowledge.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government at least control the import of books which are written by Indians and published here in this country at a cheaper

rate but which are simultaneously published in England, priced at a higher rate, and which are being imported into this country?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The Indian cheaper edition is generally published much later than the expensive British edition.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOREIGN SERVICE

942. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state in which countries Government have decided to establish Embassies?

(b) What progress has been made with regard to the establishment of a Foreign Service and has any report been submitted by Sir Akbar Hydari, who has been on special duty for this purpose?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of introducing foreign languages, history and foreign commerce courses at selected centres in India in order to make persons eligible early for a foreign career in case of their selection?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Embassies have been established in the U.S.A. and China and an Embassy will shortly be established in France.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my statement in answer to question No. 61 put by Prof. Ranga on the 5th February 1947. The F.P.S.C. have since issued an advertisement inviting applications for the Indian Foreign Service. Sir Akbar Hydari has not been asked to make any formal report, but his advice and help have been taken in considering matters relating to the Foreign Service.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my answer to question No. 394 put by Seth Govind Das on the 18th February 1947.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that so few people in this country and coming only from a few communities or castes can alone qualify themselves to first class degrees, will Government consider the advisability of reducing their qualification from first class to at least second class?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I should say that it would be a dangerous precedent—I am not for the moment mentioning first or second class—to reduce the standards. The best way is to promote facilities for those groups or communities for their training. We propose to encourage them in every way. But this matter of Foreign Service is, if I may say so, even more important in regard to standards than any internal service. In regard to internal services there are numerous checks, but in a foreign country, where a representative goes, unless he attains a high standard it is positively dangerous and harmful. He cannot cope with the others. It is not like joining a big office and doing routine work. He has to have all manner of qualities which include qualities of mixing with people, knowing their language, customs and history and their background. Unless he knows these he is a complete misfit, and he might even do injury to our cause. We have, therefore, to have a high standard and try at any rate to bring in people who may thus far have had opportunities of attaining these high standards, and promote opportunities for them to attain such high standards rather than lower the standards.

Mr. President: I may remind Honourable Members that this matter has been considered and questions put a number of times in this House.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member himself never got a first class in any of his examinations will he kindly revise his opinion of the value of first class degrees?

Mr. President: Order, order.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member remember that I mentioned that the examinations of Shantiniketan where so many foreign languages are taught to students should also be considered in this connection?

Mr. President: I do not propose to allow many supplementaries on this ques-

Seth Govind Das: My question has not been answered.

Seth Govind Das: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of what the Honourable Member said just now on the subject, may I enquire whether he will take into consideration, in examining this problem, the practice which existed in Japan where at a very early stage in his education a person was asked whether he would have something to do with foreign countries by way of trade or by way of government service or by other ways, and whether a certain amount of specialised training cannot be given to him right from the high school standard?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I should think that is rather difficult especially in the present stage of evolution. But as I once informed the House our proposal is, after selection of candidates, to give them a year and a half special training in a foreign University or some foreign Institute; after that a year's special training in India partly in regard to practical work so that they might get into the work and partly special courses organised. At the end of two and a half years of such special training after they are chosen there will be another examination to see if they have profited by the special training, and then they may join the service in some junior grade.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it a fact that in England the examination for the Foreign Civil Service is a stiffer examination than for the Home Civil Service?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It used to be so. I do not know the position now?

SELECTION OF MEN FOR THE FOREIGN SERVICE

943. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state how many men have been selected for the Foreign Service so far and how many are proposed to be selected during 1947-48?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of sending out some of these unofficially as tourists in the first instance for a preliminary survey and for studying the language of the country?

(c) Have Government any information as to the number of Indians in India, who know foreign languages?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of employing some of these men in the Foreign Service?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Fifteen E.C.O.s have been selected for the Indian Foreign Service. It is not yet possible to say precisely how many persons will be required during 1947-48.

(b) It has been decided that the period of training for young recruits, who will be selected in the future on the results of a competitive examination should include a period of study in a foreign University where in addition to the study of other subjects they will be required to learn foreign languages.

(c) Government have no precise information but they understand that there are a considerable number of such Indians in India.

(d) Government will certainly consider this but mere knowledge of a foreign language is not always helpful. Other qualities are also needed. In the advertisement issued by the Federal Public Service Commission calling for applications for the Foreign Service it has been mentioned that candidates should preferably have a working knowledge of one or more foreign languages.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government have considered the desirability of sending out some non-officials to those countries to which they may be ultimately put or may not be put if Government do not want them later, but of sending them out like this beforehand so that they do not reach their destination where they are to play an important part, altogether unfamiliar with the country—whether a non-official journey by these people would not be of some help?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not quite clear in my mind what the Honourable Member refers to. A youngman who is selected

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am not talking of youngmen. I am talking of senior men who have been taken now and are being sent to countries which they have never visited before. Have Government considered the desirability of asking some of these senior men unofficially to visit these countries before their appointments are ultimately announced after a month or two?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That might be desirable sometimes. But when we actually choose a man we choose him because somebody has got to be sent there immediately. If we hold up the appointment and send the person unofficially, in effect it will be officially sending him. There would not be much difference between the two. I can understand people being sent at some earlier period. Either we have chosen them or we have not. If we have chosen them, they have to be sent officially, although they may not be put in charge of the office itself.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: With reference to the answer to part (a) of the question may I know if the persons already selected belong to existing Government service; and with reference to the answer to part (c) may I know whether English has been treated as a foreign language?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The fifteen E C O's. who have been chosen are persons who held temporary commissions and who have retired from the Army. They were chosen first for the Central Administrative Service by the Federal Service Commission and then specially for the Foreign Service after various tests.

As regards the reference to English, English is obviously a foreign language though Honourable Members of this House do not seem to treat it as such.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable the Leader of the House what kind of training these students are expected to undergo in British or Foreign Universities for a year and a half and are there any particular courses in these universities which fit them for appointment in the External Affairs Department or embassies elsewhere?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There are various special courses in America, in England, in France, Switzerland and, no doubt, in other countries but we shall try to send them out to these various countries, not in a bunch to one place, and try to give them more or less the special training required for them as well as the general training, which is very important for foreign conditions.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the growing demand for such courses, is any attempt being made to introduce such courses in the Indian Universities?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have already informed the House once that we have asked Indian Universities to institute such courses not only in foreign languages but in international affairs and current affairs, in fact all subjects connected with foreign relations.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does the Central Government propose to give a subsidy to any of the universities to start such courses immediately?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. That question has not arisen but in regard to the reorganisation of Universities or the institution of special courses, we might be prepared to give them subsidy.

INDIANS ABROAD IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD

944. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state whether Government have definite information as to the number of Indians abroad in different parts of the world and, if so, what are the figures?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of sending out individual officers by way of Goodwill Mission to enquire into the life and conditions of these people and to report to Government?

(c) From which countries have deputations for political or other purposes reached India and got in touch with the Government here?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the disabilities of some of these Indians, with regard to (i) passport to and fro, (ii) passages to and fro, and (iii) facilities for movement of married women and children to and fro?

(e) Have Government received any complaints on this subject?

(f) Have the war restrictions on the normal movement to and fro of Indian nationals now been removed in all parts of Arabia and Africa?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Government have little up-to-date information. The latest figures are given in the statement placed on the table of the House.

(b) and (d). As the Honourable Member is aware the Government of India are considering as a matter of urgency the establishment of Diplomatic and Consular Representatives in countries abroad where the interests of Indians require it. They also intend to appoint representatives in colonial territories of the British Commonwealth where considerable numbers of Indians live. They do not consider it necessary at this stage to send out individual officers to enquire into the life and conditions or general complaints of Indians abroad since all these matters can be more appropriately and satisfactorily dealt with by the Government of India's official representatives as soon as they are established.

(c) Since 1940 four deputations have visited India from Ceylon including one official one on behalf of the Government of Ceylon. One non-official delegation was sent to India in 1944 by the East African Indian Congress, and the South African Indian Congress sent a non-official deputation to India in 1946. Representatives from Fiji and Mauritius have also visited India.

(e) Government receive complaints from time to time from various parts of the world. Many of these complaints come from individuals. They are inquired into and representations made where necessary.

(f) Government have no information whether all the war restrictions on the normal movement of Indian nationals from all parts of Arabia and Africa have been removed but so far as the movement of Indians from India to these countries is concerned, war time restrictions have been removed. But owing to the shortage of shipping there is still difficulty in obtaining passages.

Statement

List of Indians in countries outside the Commonwealth

Europe :

1. Germany	44
2. Italy	23
3. France	10

North America :

1. U. S. A.	5,000
2. Panama	1,000

1. Brazil	2,000
2. Br. Guiana	157,185
Do. Guiana	54,383

Africa		
1 Belgian Congo		1 000
2 Prt East Africa		4 000
3 Egypt and Sudan		1 025
4 Abyssinia		2 000
Asia		
1 Fr Indo China		2 000 (app)
2 Neth East Indies		24 000
3 Philippines		800
4 Siam		30 000
5 Japan		50
6 China	No figures available	
7 Manchuria		
8 Russia (Asiatic)		
9 Afghanistan	Correct figures not available	
10 Persia		500 (?)
11 Iraq		4 500
12 Saudi Arabia		
13 Turkey		37
14 Syria		
15 Palestine		60
16 K shg r		400

Indian Population in various parts of the British Empire according to the latest available estimates as follows —

No	Name of the country	Indian Population	Year
Dominions			
1	Australia	4 544	1933
2	Canada	1 500	1941
3	New Zealand	1 200	1942
4	South Africa	266 016	1945
5	Southern Rhodesia	2 547	1941
Colonies and Protectorates			
6	Ceylon	750 000	1943
7	British Malaya	748 829	1940
8	Hong Kong	4 745	1931
9	Mauritius	269 546	1938
10	Seychelles	503	1931
11	Gibraltar	80	1931
12	Nigeria	32	1931
13	Kenya	47 000	1942

No.	Name of the country	Indian Population	Year
Colonies and Protectorates—contd.			
14	Uganda	26,972	1943
15	Nyasaland	1,851	1940
16	Zanzibar & Pemba	14,000	1931
17	Tanganyika	35,591	1942
18	Samoa	26,507	1943
19	Trinidad	170,396	1942
20	British Guiana	157,185	1942
21	Fiji Islands	105,581	1942
22	Northern Rhodesia	421	1937
23	Maldives	550	1933
24	British N. Borneo	1,298	1931
25	Aden	5,594	1932
26	British Somaliland	520	1931
27	Malta	41	1933
28	Grenada	5,000	1932
29	St. Lucia	2,129	1921
30	British Honduras	497	1931
31	Sierra Leone	444	1931
Other Parts			
32	Burma	1,017,825	1931
33	United Kingdom	7,128	1932

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With reference to part (a), may I know what is the strength of Indians in Burma now, as compared with the strength of their population before the war?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I could not give the figure. I could give the previous figure. The previous figure which is rather old was 1,017,825.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I want to know whether approximately it has been reduced by nearly 30 to 40 per cent.?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry I really could not give figure now. I will try to find out. I cannot make an approximate guess at the moment.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Have Government taken any steps to acquire records of the life of Indians in foreign countries, because that part was hitherto handled by British consular and diplomatic services and there must be many particulars in their archives with regard to the life of stray Indians in those countries? Will Government make some attempt to get full records from the British Foreign Office?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: This is a new idea which the Honourable Member has put forward. So far the Government have not thought of it. We will try to do so but when the Honourable Member mentions 'individual records kept by British consular officers and others' I imagine that most of these records were of the type that the Criminal Investigation Department keep. I do not know whether he is referring to that type of record or other records?

Mr. Manu Subedar: There may be trading difficulties, as in the case of the Sindhi merchants, there may be passport difficulties, family difficulties, litigations. There may be many things with regard to the life of Indians in those countries of which this Government in their records would have nothing whatsoever.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We shall try to find out

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With reference to clause (b) of the question about sending a goodwill mission, is the Honourable Member aware that the Constituent Assembly is being formed in Burma, that seven lakhs of Indians are domiciled there and that only 100 are proposed to be enfranchised for the purpose? Is it not desirable to send a goodwill mission there in order to enable Indians to get their citizenship rights, so that they may participate in the work of framing a constitution for Burma?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I really do not know what a goodwill mission will be able to achieve in this matter. I was a little surprised to hear the figure of 100 persons enfranchised, which the Honourable Member gave. I think the proportion will be far larger. That is for the Constituent Assembly. As a matter of fact, we have been very much exercised over this matter and we have been in continuous communication with our own Agents with the Burmese Government and the Burmese Government have given us public assurances to the effect that they will later give the fullest franchise to Indians. One of the difficulties was lack of time. The Constituent Assembly elections take place on the 9th April or thereabouts and it became very difficult, even though they expressed their willingness, to make any change at this stage for this purpose but they have assured us that they will give the fullest franchise when the real constitution comes to be framed. A goodwill mission at the present moment will serve no purpose whatsoever. May I add this? When I said that we do not propose to send individual officers, I was referring chiefly not to these Colonial territories where Indians dwell but rather to foreign countries, as Mr. Subedar's question related to them but we do propose, wherever possible, to send either non-officials or officials to some of these Colonial territories.

ECONOMIC MISSION TO RUSSIA

945. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state what arrangements Government have made with regard to co-ordination and planning in the economic and financial field in India?

(b) Have Government considered any proposal for sending an Economic Mission to Russia to study the efforts made and the results achieved in respect of each of the successive Russian Plans?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Since the termination of the Planning and Development Department early in July 1946 the principle agency for co-ordinating plans in the Central Government has been the Development Board. This Board consists of the Secretaries of certain departments and is presided over by the Deputy Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee of the Cabinet. The Development Board has, during the past few months, considered questions such as allocation of funds as between the various Provinces and as between schemes sponsored by different Departments. The Advisory Planning Board which reported recently has made recommendations for setting up new machinery for planning at the Centre. These proposals are under consideration and decisions will shortly be taken. In the meantime the Development Board

will continue to discharge its present functions. But this is envisaged only as a temporary arrangement.

(b) This and other similar proposals are likely to be taken up after the establishment of diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia, for which preliminary steps are already in hand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Some of us are noticing that the Departments of Government are all functioning too narrowly and departmentally. Take, for example, the question which I asked the Honourable the Commerce Member this morning about the total foreign exchange balances about which India is going to be in difficulties in the next three or four years. May I know whether the Development Board mentioned is of sufficiently high level and whether it does tackle questions of this type or whether it deals only with ordinary file questions which come before it? Have they got any initiative to tackle a problem of the kind which I asked the Honourable the Commerce Member this morning even if they were to overstep the boundaries between departments' work?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. I should imagine that normally we would not. We would work on the lower level.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I think there was a useful Committee of the Executive Council to deal with questions of planning and may I know whether that practice is being followed now by the present Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know to what Committee the Honourable Member refers, but there was a Cabinet Co-ordination Committee, whose normal function should be to consider the questions to which Mr. Manu Subedar drew attention. That Committee does exist but it is not at present working.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know what has happened to the Economic Committee of the Cabinet consisting of four departments concerned with economics, namely, Commerce, Finance, Transport and Supply? Is that Committee still functioning and, if so, whether they are taking any initiative or are they merely considering routine files as they come to them?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I do not know exactly what has happened to the Economic Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I ask why this Co-ordination Committee of the Cabinet is not functioning?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Owing to various obvious difficulties and also because we are in a formative and changing state.

DISTURBANCES IN TANK AND DERA ISMAIL KHAN.

946. *Seth Govind Das. Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state.

(a) how much damage has been done to the life and property of people living in Tank and Dera Ismail Khan Districts as a result of recent disturbances in those areas;

(b) whether Government are aware that many refugees are coming to Dehra Dun and other places because of the disturbances in the Tribal area; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to stop these troubles in the Tribal Area?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) No damage. There have been no disturbances in the Dera Ismail Khan District, of which Tank is a Tahsil.

(b) No.

(c) There are no disturbances in the tribal areas at present. The Honourable Member is perhaps thinking of other areas which have undoubtedly had very serious disturbances and from which many refugees have gone elsewhere.

REVISION OF ALLOTMENT RULES FOR GOVERNMENT RESIDENCES IN DELHI.

1947. *Sardar Mangal Singh: With reference to the reply to part (c) of my starred question No. 1420 asked on the 29th March 1946, regarding the revision of allotment rules of Government residences, will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have completed the re-examination of the Allotment Rules; if not, when it is likely to be completed,

(b) whether in their re-examination, Government have taken into consideration the fact that the amendment of the Revised Rules for allotment during the war, relating to seniority, is operating adversely against certain senior officials of the Government of India, since their retransfer to Delhi, and

(c) whether several representations have been made to Government by persons so adversely affected by the amended rule and, if so, what steps Government have taken to give them the required relief?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) No, Sir. The new rules are expected to be ready before the 1st April 1948.

(b) It is realised that the revised rules cause hardship in certain cases, but the revision was necessary in the interests of a larger number of other individuals. The point raised will however be taken into consideration when further revising the rules

(c) Representations from a few individuals have been received, which will be considered

COST OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CAPITAL OF ORISSA AT BHUBANESHWAR.

948. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the capital of Orissa is going to be established at Bhubaneswar; and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to meet a portion of the cost thereof, if so, what amount?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Finance Member. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 20th March 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable the Finance Member

FOREIGNERS IN OCCUPATION OF FLATS AND ACCOMMODATION IN BOMBAY.

949. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement on page 6 of the 'Forum' of Sunday, 9th February 1947, a weekly news magazine of Bombay to the effect "that there are enough foreigners in our flats and premises in Backbay, Churchgate, Cumballa Hill, Napier Sea Road, who deserve to be forthwith ousted and their premises made available to the citizens of this land. Many of our people have not even a room to sit",

(b) how far the statement is true,

(c) how many flats and premises are still under the requisition of the Government of India as on 1st February 1947,

(d) when it is proposed to return all these flats to their owners;

(e) whether Government are aware of the difficult housing situation in Bombay;

(f) when it is proposed to repatriate all these foreigners and whether the cost of their maintenance is from Indian or non-Indian revenues; and

(g) whether in the meantime Government propose to consider the advisability of putting all these foreigners in army barracks and other camps which might be lying vacant in various parts of the country?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes.

(b) It has been ascertained from the Government of Bombay that the total number of foreigners residing in Bombay is 5,580, of whom 299 reside in Backbay Reclamation—Churchgate Area, 241 in Cumbala Hill and the remaining in Nepean Sea Road Area. With the exception of two persons who came to adverse notice for objectionable trading activities during the war and are now under orders to leave India, none of the others can be classified as undesirable.

(c) It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the total number of premises now under requisition by the Government of India in Bombay. The total number of such premises is 106 (including 157 flats).

(d) This question is constantly engaging the attention of Government and a De-requisitioning Advisory Board has been set up in Bombay under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Defence Department. There is acute shortage of residential accommodation in Bombay for essential Government servants. Every effort is being made to find alternative accommodation. Derequisitioning will take place as and when accommodation becomes surplus to requirements or alternative accommodation is available.

(e) Yes.

(f) There is no proposal to repatriate these foreigners. None of them is being maintained by Government.

(g) Does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that these men came here to find an asylum and Government gave them an asylum when they were in difficulties, but now that the war has ended may I know whether Government would not induce them and give them facilities to repatriate them to their countries?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: These are ordinary private citizens and are not being maintained by Government and therefore, there is no question of any repatriation or inducing them to leave the country.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that some of these elements are adding to the vice and crime of the City of Bombay? Have they made any inquiries in the matter? Will the Honourable Secretary for Works, Mines and Power have contact with the Home Department and make this specific inquiry whether some of these are undesirable elements and should be sent away?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Presumably this is a matter which concerns the Provincial Government, but, if the Honourable Member likes, he can table a question to the Home Department.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Instead of requisitioning flats for these foreigners, why does not the Government send them to the Barracks which are vacant?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: None of these people is living in a requisitioned flat. Requisitioned flats are for Government servants and not for these foreigners.

TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL MISSION TO JAPAN.

950. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the proposal to send a Technical and Industrial Mission to Japan stands; and

(b) whether Government propose to attach a special officer to that Mission to examine the methods of cottage industries in Japan and the possibility of adopting them in our country?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b). There is no proposal at present under consideration of Government to send an industrial mission to Japan. An invitation has, however, been received from the Supreme Commander for Allied Powers in Japan, through the Far Eastern Commission at Washington, to send from India a Technical Mission to Japan consisting of not more than five

persons who should be capable of acting on matters pertaining to reparation removals, identification and restitution of looted property or any other relevant matters which would otherwise require visit of a separate mission. The invitation has been accepted by Government and the question of selection of personnel for the Mission is receiving their consideration. As the activities of the Mission will be limited to specified objects, it may not be possible to attach a special officer to it with a view to examining the methods of cottage industries in Japan and the possibility of adopting them in India.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: What action has been taken upon the report of the Trade Commissioner who has already been sent to Japan?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No Trade Commissioner has been sent to Japan because private trade with Japan has not yet been opened. There is a representative of the Government of India in Japan and he deals with questions which arise.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will the Honourable Member let us know whether Government are sending their own employees as technicians or they are sending out technicians from the industries as well?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Probably the men will include Government officials as well as people connected with industries and other interests.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government take care to see that these technicians are Indians?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Every one of them will be an Indian

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Has not the Trade Commissioner in Japan submitted a report to the Government of India?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There is only a representative of the Government of India in Japan at present, but as soon as private trade with Japan will be opened, an Indian Trade Commissioner will be sent there.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Has that representative submitted any report to the Government, and, if so, what action has been taken on it?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: His reports are received from time to time on the decisions reached by the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in Japan and suitable action is taken on his reports

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Has the representative been asked to examine those things in Japan which are proposed to be given to India as part of reparations?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: He has been asked to do so, and in order to assist him in the selection, this mission is being sent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has he made any suggestion that an industrial mission also should be sent to Japan?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No suggestion has been received to that effect.

CONTROL OF HAJ PILGRIMAGE.

951. ***Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state whether the next Haj pilgrimage will be conducted under Government control as in the last two years, or will the pre-war system be restored?

(b) Are Government aware that intending pilgrims have already begun to send money to Government for reservation of passages, which indicates that there is going to be a heavy demand for passages to Hejaz this year?

(c) If so, do Government propose to take early steps to get greater number of ships for this year's Haj pilgrimage?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The question is under consideration and Government expect to come to a decision shortly in consultation with the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz.

(b) Yes.

(c) Attention is invited to part (e) of the reply to starred question No 505, dated the 22nd February 1947, by Mr. Tamizuddin Khan.

PROHIBITION OF CIVILIANS' ENTRY INTO JAPAN

952. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that civilians are not permitted to go to Japan even at their own expense and if so, the reason for this prohibition,

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a large number of people in India who have property, trade goods and relations in Japan since pre-war days and that they are naturally anxious to go there to enquire after them,

(c) whether Government have received applications for permission to go to Japan and if so, their decision on those applications, and

(d) the steps that Government propose to take to enable such people to proceed to Japan at least for a short period to enquire after their belongings and relatives?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers does not yet permit the entry into Japan of non-Japanese civilians, other than those on occupation duty, because of the difficult living conditions and lack of accommodation

(b) Government are aware that a number of Indians have commercial and property interest in Japan, though they are without information of their precise number

(c) A few applications for permission to go to Japan have been received. Most of these have had to be rejected in view of the prohibition already mentioned. One Indian was allowed to visit Japan to bring back certain members of his family who were unable to travel to India without escort, one more case has been referred to the S C A P., whose decision is awaited

(d) Government are keeping the position under review, and will consider whether relaxation may be obtained in particular cases of exceptional hardship

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Is it not a fact that many American traders and businessmen and industrialists are already there in Japan?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: There are certain vague reports to that effect. I do not know if they are true

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will the Honourable Member enquire and ascertain the true facts?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I shall certainly enquire, but from whom.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Government take steps to get into communication with the Supreme Commander and get his permission for sending a small deputation, consisting of two or three people from India who may be authorised by all interests concerned to go and examine the position in Japan with regard to property, trade goods and relations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Does the Honourable Member mean some kind of official deputation to go and enquire into the matter?

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: A non-official deputation from among those interested in things mentioned in part (b)?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We shall consider the suggestion.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: To protect Indian trade interests will the Honourable

Member persuade the Supreme Commander to allow a few traders and businessmen to go to Japan to study the conditions there and take steps to protect their interests?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That is the same question as was put just now which I have answered.

SCHEMES FOR POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT IN COORG

953. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state whether the Coorg Administration has submitted to the Government of India a list of schemes with reference to Post War Development in Coorg?

(b) If so, what is the estimated total cost of the proposed schemes?

(c) What is the financial reserve the Coorg Administration has for implementing these schemes?

(d) What contribution do the Government of India propose to give to Coorg in this respect?

(e) When are these schemes going to be implemented?

The Honourable Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru: (a) and (b) The Chief Commissioner, Coorg, has submitted a five year development plan for Coorg. The estimated total cost of the Plan is about Rs. 60 lakhs.

(c) The Coorg Administration hope to contribute about Rs. 25 lakhs from their own resources.

(d) The Government of India have provisionally allotted Rs. 25 lakhs as development grant to Coorg during the first quinquennium.

(e) Some schemes have already been started during the current financial year while others are to be implemented from 1947-48 onwards.

SALARY OF ELECTRIC LIFT DRIVERS

954. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With reference to the reply given to my starred question No. 285 asked on the 13th February 1947, regarding the rates of pay of permanent lift men, will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state

(a) the number of lifts in operation in the different Government buildings and the number of permanent lift drivers, if the number of the latter is smaller than the number of lifts, on what establishment the non-permanent lift men (i.e., lift drivers, lift mechanics, lift cleaners, etc.) are borne and whether Government propose to place on the table of the House a statement showing the rates of pay given to such men,

(b) whether it is a fact that accidents involving physical injuries to lift men occur from time to time; if so, the number of such accidents and the circumstances under which they occurred during the last five years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the lift-drivers have to handle an electric motor of 440 volts in operating the lifts and if so whether they have been recognised as operators of a power-driven machine, if not, the reasons therefor,

(d) the reason why, in spite of the technical duties of the lift staff and the risk involved therein, they have been classified with the ordinary inferior staff in the matter of pay, and

(e) whether the question of the salary and conditions of service of these lift drivers, lift mechanics and lift cleaners is being examined by the Pay Commission; and if so, whether these will be revised on the recommendations of the Pay Commission?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) 28 lifts are in operation in different Government buildings and the number of permanent lift attendants is 16. The non-permanent liftmen are borne on the regular temporary establishment. A small staff employed on the Western Court Lift is shown against work-charged establishment.

A statement showing the rates of pay given to these men is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Three accidents have taken place during the last five years. Two cleaners got their fingers slightly injured in 1942, in trying to remove cotton waste while the hoisting gear was in motion, and by the counter-weight while cleaning the bottom of the lift well respectively. The third accident took place in February 1947 when the cleaner accidentally got his arm jammed between the counter-weight and the bracket which holds the lift "guides".

(c) No. Lift-drivers are required to operate pilot switches of the Electric motors, which are fixed on the roof and are remote controlled from the lift cage. These attendants have nothing to do with the main power unit, and have not been classified as operators of the power-driven machine.

(d) Except the mechanic and fitter who are technical and classified as Superior Staff, no other lift staff have to perform technical duties in the true sense of the term, and they have therefore been classified as ordinary interior staff, like other unskilled labour.

(e) The Central Pay Commission are examining the question of revision of scales of pay of all categories of Government servants and as such the pay of the lift staff also will fall within the scope of their recommendations.

Statement giving scales of pay of the lift staff

<i>Permanent staff</i>	
Ministry	@ Rs. 60 p.m. (fixed)
Lift attendants .	@ Rs. 25 p.m. (fixed)—Old entrants.
Lift attendants . . .	@ Rs. 22 p.m. (fixed)—New entrants.
Cleaners .	@ Rs. 15 p.m. (fixed)
<i>Temporary staff (Regular establishment)</i>	
Mechanic .	@ Rs. 55 p.m. (fixed)
Fitter . . .	@ Rs. 40 p.m. (fixed)
Lift attendant . . .	@ Rs. 22 p.m. (fixed)
Cleaner . . .	@ Rs. 15 p.m. (fixed)
<i>Workcharged staff (Western Court Lift)</i>	
Mistri	@ Rs. 30—2—40—3—100
Lift attendant	@ Rs. 25—1—45—2—55
Cleaner	@ Rs. 14—1—22

Mr. N. M. Joshi: When the number of lifts to be worked is much larger than the number of liftmen, why should Government keep a large number of liftmen as temporary instead of making them permanent?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: In the P.W.D. a certain number are made permanent, others are kept as temporary and still others are work-charged and the proportions go on changing from time to time. The matter has now again been taken into consideration and I hope the lists will be revised in the light of the report of the Pay Commission.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that there were three accidents which took place recently, have Government taken any measures to prevent these accidents and in the case of the two accidents mentioned, did Government give any compensation?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: There was only one accident recently this year. The other two took place over five years ago. They were purely due to carelessness on the part of the cleaners. They were purely mechanical accidents due to carelessness, and not caused by electricity or anything of the kind. The man is now in the hospital and as soon as we receive a report from the Civil Surgeon, the question of compensation will be considered. The cases are all governed by the Workmen's Compensation Act.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether the opinion that this accident was due to carelessness was that of some Government official or a Court?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The opinion of the superior officer who enquired into the accident. The matter did not go to court.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Was the matter enquired into regularly?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir.

COMPENSATION TO INJURED LIFT CLEANER

955. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a lift cleaner of Lift No. 13 in South Block of the Secretariat had his hand severely injured and arm bone broken on the 19th February 1947, as a result of an accident to the said lift;

(b) whether, in view of the above accident Government will re-examine their reply given to my starred question No 285 on 13th February 1947, and

(c) whether any compensation is being given to the lift cleaner mentioned above and whether the expense for his treatment is being paid by Government?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes. On 19th February 1947 one Dabir Haider, lift cleaner, sustained injuries while cleaning Lift No. 13 in the South Block. Details of injuries are awaited from the Civil Surgeon.

(b) The question of pay referred to in the Honourable Member's question No. 285 of 13th February 1947 will be considered in the light of the report of the Pay Commission. There appears to be no other point for re-consideration.

(c) The case for compensation to the Lift Cleaner will be taken up on receipt of the medical report from the Civil Surgeon. Like other Government servants, he is being treated free of charge in the Irwin Hospital, where he was admitted after the accident.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN SHIP BUILDING INDUSTRY IN BENGAL

956. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of India have received any representation from the Government of Bengal asking their help, encouragement and assistance in the development of Indian Shipbuilding Industry in Bengal principally under Indian capital, control and management, and

(b) if so, what is the policy of Government in this respect?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: This question concerns the Department of Industries and Supplies. It has accordingly been transferred to them, and will be answered by the Honourable Member in charge of that Department.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN INDIA

957. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state.

- (a) the number of employment exchanges opened throughout India;
- (b) the number of officers and staff employed in the various offices,
- (c) the percentage of Muslims therein,
- (d) whether officers are sent to England for training in managerial service, and
- (e) if so, how many have been so sent and how many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The total number of Employment Exchanges opened in British India so far is 70

(b) The total number of Managerial and clerical staff employed in the various Exchanges is 233 and 888 respectively

(c) The percentage of Muslims in the Managerial staff works out to 24.9 per cent. As regards the percentage of Muslims in the clerical staff, it is regretted that separate figures are not available. At present consolidated statements showing the communal composition of the staff in the various regions are received from the Regional Directors who are responsible for ensuring that the orders regarding communal representation are followed when making recruitment in the various offices under them.

(d) Yes

(e) So far 14 officers have been sent to the United Kingdom in connection with the working of employment exchanges. Three of these were Muslims.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that some labour organiser and officer connected with British Trade Boards and Labour Exchanges was brought here in order to organise these things, where was the necessity for Government to send these fourteen people to England for this so-called managerial office training?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: We cannot keep on foreign elements all along and have to train the Indian element to take up the work afterwards.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE RULES

82. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the Articles prescribed in the Auditors' Certificate Rules are designed to give a practical experience of Accounts to a candidate,

(b) the special reasons why the experience of audit of Government, Commercial and Quasi Commercial undertakings is not recognised for the purpose of enrolment on the Register of Accountants maintained under the Auditors Certificate Rules, when such a concession is allowed to Government Servants in Great Britain by the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors in their bye-laws, and

(c) whether the interests of the Accountancy profession and of the investing public in England are different from those in India?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member seems to have a misconception of the Articles of Association and bye-laws of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors, which do not allow the concession referred to. Article 6 of the said Articles only refers to the occupation of the applicant at the time of application. The alleged differentiation does not in fact exist.

(c) No

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS.—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd*

DEMAND No. 21—DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

Conditions of Indians Overseas

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions, Non-Muhammadan):
Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Commonwealth Relations' be reduced by Rs 100 "

On this motion I wish to discuss the problems of Indians overseas. At the very outset I wish to mention that as India is going to be free very shortly the whole problem has to be seen now from an entirely different angle. Hitherto

12 Noon. Indians living in this country and outside were considered to be British subjects, and whenever we wanted to get any grievances of Indians living in other countries redressed we had to approach the British Government. We know the British Government did very little in this respect, but now as we are going to be a free country we have to see that our brethren living in the commonwealth and other countries enjoy the same rights,—economic, political and social—as those enjoyed by citizens of free countries. As to how that is to be achieved I wish to make a few suggestions. First of all I wish to point out that the two departments of Commonwealth Relations and External Affairs should not be kept separate any longer. Besides that they should be reorganised with a better and bigger staff. I do not want any retrenchment or economy as far as these two departments are concerned. Secondly, I want that our representatives should be appointed in all those countries where there is an Indian population. Thirdly, I want that good-will missions should be sent every now and then. Sir, it is a well known fact that we have very little information with respect to our brethren living outside India, and the information that we have is also not very authentic. Without full data very little can be done and also without real contact much can not be done. The suggestions that I have made will enable us to have full data of the population that is living abroad and we shall also be able to establish real and better contact.

After these general points I now wish very briefly to deal with some of the major grievances of Indians abroad. With regard to South Africa I wish to congratulate the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations and also the delegation which was sent to the U N O on their great achievement. Previously this question was not dealt with in the way in which the Honourable Member has dealt with it and the success which we have achieved at the U N O, is a unique success. I do not wish to say much on this point because the today is very delicate. No doubt the statements made by General Smuts after his return from the U N O are most unsatisfactory. Last year when I moved an adjournment motion with respect to South Africa I said that General Smuts has become very greedy of power in his old age, and today I feel the same as I felt then. He may be able to keep power in his hands in his life time because he has become very old; but I want to warn the white population of South Africa that if the present attitude of that population persists South Africa will not have any place in the civilised world, and as far as the U N O, is concerned they will see that they are dealt with more severely in its next session.

With respect to East Africa I wish to point out that the present immigration policy of Kenya is most injurious to the Indians and it should be opposed. Then there are restrictions not only with regard to purchase of lands and property in what are called the highlands there—that is an old grievance—but even in Mombassa and Nairobi where the Indians could purchase property, these restrictions, have been imposed. Something is to be done in this respect also. Again,

[Seth Govind Das.]

Sir, in Tanganyika there is a scheme of development of agriculture and industries. I have received certain communications from there which show that Europeans, though they are in a microscopic minority in Tanganyika, are managing things in such a way that the Indian interests would be jeopardised; and I want that as far as these schemes of agriculture and industrial development of Tanganyika are concerned they should be well scrutinised before any opinion in this respect is given by Government.

With regard to Burma, the Honourable Member in reply to a question this morning said that as far as elections to the Constituent Assembly are concerned, because they are going to take place shortly, nothing can be done now. I hope, Sir, that when future elections take place something will be done to see that Indians get the franchise there.

Then Sir, we have also to examine the disabilities of Indians in Ceylon, Malaya, Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad, British Guiana, Jamaica, and Canada. We have to see that the Indians who are there do get, as I said at the outset, full rights of citizenship.

In conclusion I wish to make two more suggestions. Firstly, we should never demand or agitate for any exclusive rights for Indians in any land. We have to see that our lot is merged with the indigenous population of different countries, and they also improve with our help. Secondly, we should arrange for some scholarships to students of both Indian community and other communities who are living in other countries. We should call those students here and give them education, so that better relations may be established between this country and other countries not only of this generation but of future generations also. I hope the Honourable Member in charge of this Department will see, as he is already doing, to these things, so that as soon as India becomes a free country our nationals abroad will also get their full rights of citizenship there.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

'That the demand under the head 'Department of Commonwealth Relations' be reduced by Rs 100'

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Member for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations) The cut motion presumably is a motion of some kind of criticism or censure of Government. I must confess that the Honourable mover's cut motion is, if it is an impeachment, a very soft impeachment, and personally I welcome it not only on this occasion but on other occasions when subjects dealing with Indians abroad are brought up to this House. I welcome these opportunities because it is right and proper that this House should take a lively interest in the interests of Indians abroad. They look to us, and sometimes they look to us even more than our own people, because they are cut off, and the distance lends a certain charm to the Indians overseas.

I shall briefly indicate one or two matters to which reference has been made. First of all, the Honourable the mover asked us that the External Affairs Department and the Commonwealth Relations Department should not be kept separate. I agree entirely with him, and I might inform him and the House that they are not going to be kept separate. In fact they are being amalgamated. Secondly, he said that they should be reorganised with better and larger staff to which he added that in this particular instance he did not wish economy to be considered at all. Well, it is not for me to say that economy should not be considered in this matter, but undoubtedly they have to be reorganized, they have to be enlarged, because thus far these departments have dealt with very limited number of questions and with a very small number of countries. The External Affairs Department in effect dealt with the tribal areas and some interests in the Persian Gulf or round about there. It really had nothing to do with the external world. Then it started dealing with the United Nations Organisation and some

other International Conferences. Now it is spreading out to all countries and thinking in terms of Embassies, Legations, Trade Agents, Consulates, etc. Obviously this requires a vast establishment and it must be enlarged.

Then he said that we should have representatives everywhere. We agree in theory, but I should like the House to realize that this cannot be done quickly and suddenly; It takes time. The technique of it takes time—approaching other countries, getting their agreement, discussing the type of representative to be exchanged, and then choosing the personnel, and so on. We have, as a matter of fact, drawn up a kind of priority list, but we find thus far that we have not been able to give effect to it. For instance, we had decided that within six months certain countries should have our representatives, and in the next six months some more, and so on, but we had to face a considerable number of difficulties and we have not been able to give effect to it thus far. As a matter of fact, at the present moment—if I may refer for a moment to External Affairs—the demands made on us by various countries of Europe and America, chiefly South America, are such that we cannot fulfil them. We are not just in a position to fulfil them immediately. The House knows that Mr. Krishna Menon was asked on behalf of the Government of India to visit various countries in Europe and to convey our greetings and express our desire for exchange of diplomatic representatives. He has done that work with exceeding ability and success indeed with so much success that we are hard put to it to follow it up, because almost every country which he visited has sent us sometimes vague, sometimes definite and formal proposals for exchange of representatives, and it has gone far beyond our priority list. There is no doubt that we must have representatives everywhere. The only question is how long it will take us to do it, because it is no good at all doing it in a casual manner. I am anxious that our foreign service should be a first class service, especially in these early days when we are laying the foundation of it. Later on, one can take risks in the matter, but if the beginning is bad and unstable then the subsequent additions to the structure are going to be very bad indeed. I appreciate completely, as Honourable Members have repeatedly pointed out, that qualifications for the foreign service are very stiff. Obviously the fact that a person has got a first class in the University does not necessarily mean that he is going to be good at a diplomatic job, nor does it mean that a person who has got a second class is going to be worse than him or may not be better than him. That is perfectly true, but situated as we are some kind of rough and ready tests have to be laid down for the initial stages because we want to avoid this watering down of the level. There is no doubt that we shall keep good men, and we will not take men who are not so good, but some tests have to be laid down, and if we do not lay down those stiff tests and leave it to the sweet will of persons to choose them, then there is a great danger of personal likes and dislikes and I want to avoid that. But at some later stage we may reconsider this matter and see how far we can get suitable candidates as a result of other tests. The Honourable Member mentioned about goodwill missions sent abroad. I take it that he was referring chiefly to what might be called the Colonial territories (*Seth Govind Das*). Yes, because in the other places there is absolutely no need to send goodwill missions, though we may occasionally send a trade mission. In regard to these places we do want to send—we may call them Goodwill Missions or Fact Finding Missions—anyhow missions to keep in touch with our people there, bring us data and help in establishing closer relations with them. In fact we are thinking of having representatives there but if there is some delay in that, we might send small groups to go about some of these rather out of the way places and make the Indians there realise that we are thinking of them. As a matter of fact some two or three months ago the Commonwealth Relations Department broached this matter and we communicated with the Colonial Office in London in regard to establishing our representatives or agents in some of these colonial territories and also to send some missions. I regret to say that we have not received an answer yet in spite of reminders. What the delay is due to, I do not know. But normally speaking,

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.]

in such matters these offices take a long time, because they make references to the colonies concerned and communication is very slow.

Then, again, the other day a question was asked: I think it was about Mauritius and unfortunately I could not give the exact figures. Immediately after or during the last session we wrote letters to enquire and no answer came. Then we sent a reminder and they said that they had not received our previous letter and we do not know what happened to the previous letter. Even on this occasion we could not give the exact information and the information we have in our departments is so completely out of date that I feel very greatly ashamed to answer some of the questions put here. So it is quite essential that we should have closer contacts with the Colonial territories.

In regard to the foreign service, I might say that our conception of the foreign service is an inclusive service, containing in its ranks almost every person who represents India in any capacity, in any official or governmental capacity. Obviously that means a diplomatic service: it means the consular service, it includes also trade representatives, though obviously the trade representatives would necessarily also deal directly with the Commerce Department. But demonstrably it will be one service and you cannot separate the economic and other matters from the diplomatic matters. In fact nowadays the consul's work is primarily economic and commercial and is very little concerned with visas and the rest. There should then be this general service but that service will deal with separate departments in order to facilitate work.

In regard to the various countries, to which reference was made, I do not want to say much about South Africa, because this subject has come before this House on many occasions previously. I should like to mention that we propose to do everything in our power in accordance with the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly to find a solution for the problem of Indians in South Africa. Much has happened in South Africa since the Resolution was passed, which has not been agreeable to Indian ears and which has irritated Indian public opinion. Nevertheless, we have remained silent, because we do not wish to create any difficulties in our path, so far as we can, in the way of a proper solution. That proper solution obviously can only be on the lines of the United Nations Charter, on the lines which influenced the United Nations General Assembly to pass that Resolution, when they found that the South African Union Government was not acting up to the provisions of that Charter. We cannot accept any position of inferiority or segregation in South Africa. Nevertheless, we are prepared to consider this question with anybody including the South African Government, if it so chooses, because this responsibility has been cast upon both of us by the United Nations General Assembly. We have waited for the last four months or more since the passage of this Resolution in the General Assembly of the United Nations for the South African Government to take the initiative, because it was for them to take the initiative. It was against them that the Resolution was passed: they have been acting wrongly according to the United Nations Assembly and they should seek to set matters right. They have done no such thing yet. Still I want to say to this House and to others who may hear that we are prepared to consider this question and to make every effort subject of course to the fundamental principles I have stated and by which we stand. We are not going to stand on any question of prestige in regard to talking about or discussing the matter with anybody at any time.

In regard to East Africa, I can say very little, except that the House will remember that we sent a Mission headed by Kunwar Maharaj Singh last year and they came back with a report which has been published. The new Immigration Bills although not specifically aimed against Indians, obviously affect Indians more than anybody else and they contain various very objectionable features. We have objected and protested to them, although I must confess that I was very reluctant sometimes to go on objecting and protesting without any or much

result. I feel that our objection would be much more powerful, if we had some other sanction behind us in our own country. Obviously the main sanction is independence. As a matter of fact I may tell the House that the fact of Indian independence coming has worked in two ways. On the one hand, naturally, it has raised the morale of our own people abroad and on the other hand, the other people realising that India is going to be independent soon, have begun rapidly to take some action before India becomes independent, in order to push through legislation, obviously since it might be more difficult for them to do it later on. So we have to face these two facts, one against the other. However, we must deal with this question wherever they arise. In the smaller colonies like Mauritius, Fiji and Guinea conditions are more peculiar still. Virtually they are Indian colonies. In some of them the majority of the population is Indian. Now what is going to happen to them in future, I do not know. Again this very fact that the majority of the population or a great number of them are Indians comes in the way of Indians being treated fairly there, because they feel that if they give Indians fair treatment, the Indians would practically become the dominant community in that area. Some of these factors are coming in the way inevitably and the problem will have to be solved to some extent.

There is another difficulty. As soon as India is completely independent the question of Indian nationality has to be considered. Is an Indian in Mauritius to call himself an Indian National or a Mauritius national? That will be for him to choose. Many of the Indians have lived there for three or four generations, for a hundred years or more. They do not even know India; they have never been to India. That is a question for the future. But this question of nationality is in a sense coming up now. Honourable Members should remember that Indians from Burma, Ceylon, Mauritius, Fiji and elsewhere have still not got out of the habit of thinking in terms of their common nationality, which is connoted by the somewhat unfortunate expression "British Subject". In law whether one was an Indian or a non-Indian he was a British subject, whether he was in India or in England or Fiji or Burma or Ceylon. These questions did not arise previously. They are arising now, not only because India is on the verge of independence but even in the Dominions like Canada and Australia they are now emphasising the aspect of Dominion nationality. That is, a Canadian national will have certain rights which no other person will have even though he might be a British subject. It is a kind of dual nationality which is going on at present. This dual nationality is likely to become more and more separated. A Canadian national will be a Canadian national and little more. So also an Australian national or a national in any other part of the British Commonwealth.

Now, this question affects us intimately in regard to the large number of residents in Ceylon, Burma, Malaya and anywhere else. It is very well to say that our people have been disfranchised in Burma. But is he a Burmese national or not? Does he consider himself an Indian national or is he merely a visitor, a sojourner in Burma, carrying on business, looking at India as his homeland and coming back to it? If so it is quite natural for the Burmese to think of him as a non-national and not as a Burmese national. In fact every single Indian in Burma, Ceylon and elsewhere will have to decide this question, namely, whether he wishes to continue as an Indian national or whether he wants to adopt the nationality of the country where he is. Naturally, even Indians who are Indian nationals, if they remain in Burma must be treated properly and must have all rights. That is a different matter. But if he is an Indian national he cannot claim all the rights, voting etc., of the Burmese national. He has no right, if he is an Indian national, in that limited sense to claim the right to frame the constitution of Burma just as we would strongly object to non-Indians framing the constitution of India. It is an identical position.

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.]

Now, the difficulty arises in Burma owing to the fact that no choice has been given and no division has been made. For my part I will be quite satisfied if every Indian was given a chance of saying freely whether he wants to be an Indian national or whether he would be a Burmese national. If he says 'I want to be a Burmese national' he should be accepted as such. If he says that he wants to remain an Indian national, then he has no further demand for franchise, or voting privilege there. He has other claims which no doubt should be supported. At the present moment in Burma undoubtedly the qualification laid down for voting for the Constituent Assembly there has been unfortunate. It limits Indians greatly though not so greatly as Honourable Members may think. But it does limit them very considerably. Since we heard about it we protested. May I also mention one other fact to this House in this connection? In all such matters when we deal with Ceylon or Burma or with any other similarly situated country we have given up the habit of protesting to the Governor or to the British Government. We do not go to the Colonial Office or to some office in London to protest against the Burmese or the Ceylonese Government. If we protest, we protest to the Burmese Government or to the Ceylonese Government. We do not want to make others our judges or arbitrators between us two. Therefore, we carried this matter formally and informally to the Burmese Government—to the Chief Minister and other Ministers. We discussed at length with them and they told us that they felt that an injustice had been done when this statement was made in London. They instructed their law officers and they said "It has become practically impossible for us in the course of the next six weeks or so to make any effective and radical changes in this matter, but we do assure you"—(and this assurance was given in public)—"that this thing will not cover the franchise for Indians in the New Constitution which we shall consider fully with you and with your representatives". I might mention that this matter was very ably handled by our Representative in Rangoon, Dr. Rauf, and he is continually pursuing it. Although this unfortunate decision has been taken the attitude of the Burmese Government—of the principal Ministers there—has been extremely friendly and co-operative in this and other matters. That is a pleasant change from the old attitude we were used to in regard to Burma.

One other matter, Sir. The Honourable Mover mentioned that we should never demand any extraneous rights for Indians in any of these countries. That has been our policy and that is going to be our policy. We are wholly convinced that it will be entirely wrong and objectionable for us to demand, say, in any African territory any rights which would be to the disadvantage of the Africans there. The rights of Africans must come first in Africa just as the rights of Indians must come first in India. As a matter of fact there has been a very happy change in the relation of Indians in Africa with the people of Africa. There has been growing co-operation between them in their respective demands and their work.

Then, in regard to scholarships I think the Education Department has already arranged for some scholarships from East Africa to East Africans who come to India. We are thinking of encouraging Indians in those territories also to come to India—some selected students—and to offer them scholarships for higher or technical education. In effect I believe that whatever the Honourable Mover wanted us to do has either been done by us or is in the process of being done.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the motion so ably moved by my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das. I would not like to take much of the time of the House before we disperse especially because the Honourable Mover has covered a wide field and nothing much remains to be said by me.

I would like to point out that the position of Indians overseas, particularly in those islands which are far away in the Far East and other places is indeed deplorable. Let those Indians far away from us realize and feel that the Government of India and Indians in India do remember them, do realize their difficulty and that they are fully alive to do their best to see that their grievances are redressed and that their conditions are improved. It is indeed a very good idea to establish trade and cultural connections with those countries. I for one feel that especially those Indians from overseas who are now in India should be allowed to visit those countries. For instance I know that there are in India so many Indians who have been in Japan during the period of the war and they are now unable to go there. There are several restrictions in their way. The restrictions should be removed. Whatever the reasons may be, Indians who are now in India who have been there, or those Indians who are in India and have their relations there and want to visit those countries, should be allowed to visit those countries.

Secondly, Sir, the idea of sending goodwill missions is indeed a good one. I personally see no objection why this mission should not be sent as this will help to solve some of the difficulties. I am sorry that the Honourable Member in charge is absent. I personally feel that these missions should not be mere pleasure-trip missions. The Honourable the Leader of the House has said that the Maharaj Singh Report has been published. No doubt the difficulties are there. But the matter should be pursued further and further until such time as the grievances are redressed. The matter should not rest there; it should be pursued.

Thirdly, in those countries where we have no Representatives at the moment, especially far away places where there are lot of Indians I fully agree that Indian Representatives should be appointed. I would not like to go into much details as to who should be appointed, particularly because this question has been fully considered the other day in a Resolution which was moved in the Council of State. But I do feel if non-officials are to be appointed it is but fair and necessary for the Government of India to see that representatives from all parties in the country are appointed to these posts. I am indeed very glad that the Honourable Member in charge is doing everything he can to ameliorate the condition of Indians overseas. I heartily congratulate him. I do hope and feel that he would see that the matters go further on and that the position of Indians is much better than what it has been in the past. Sir, I support the motion.

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the very satisfactory reply of the Honourable Member in charge, I withdraw this motion.

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 54—BROADCASTING

WORKING OF THE BROADCASTING STATION AT PESHAWAR

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Broadcasting be reduced by Rs. 100."

Before we proceed to consider this motion I would like to point out that we Pathans are almost 95 per cent. illiterate. Therefore the only way to educate us is through our ears. The Pathans have an all round love for music and they would travel ten miles on foot through outlaw infested country to

[Khan Abdul Ghani Khan.]

listen to a concert. Therefore he is more at the mercy of the A.I.R. than anybody else. An illiterate man has a very attentive ear and a very retentive memory. Therefore to us the Broadcasting Station is really an oral University. Its effects on our life and actions are much more important than in the rest of India, because the rest of India can read also and we can only hear. The Provincial Government has supplied thousands of free radio sets to villages in order to bring the light into their homes and has thus made the Broadcasting Station a live force in our existence. Yet how does the A.I.R. deal with them. We have a station in Peshawar that is good enough to give broadcasts in Pushtu for four hours out of a total of 11½ hours of broadcasting. Those four hours include news also and what does this station broadcast in these four hours. Sir, the Peshawar Station is a Punjabi colony. Almost all the officials are Punjabis who do not know how to say 'Good morning' in Pushtu. They have a cordial contempt for the Pushtu language, and for the Pathan. They do not know how to fill in these four hours and who can blame them. The Government of India has sent them because they have nowhere else to send them. They have got jobs and they must be provided for and the fact that they do not know Pushtu is sad but it cannot be helped. The Peshawar station talks not only to us in the Frontier but also to the 3½ million tribesmen in this tribal territory, also 8 million Pathans in Afghanistan. The Peshawar Station is inhabited by officers who would faint if you took them outside the barbed wire that surrounds the cantonment and surely we deserve better treatment than this at your hands. What is the result of this foreign invasion on our music. It is frightful. Could I be expected to give the Madras an excellent musical programme? You switch on Peshawar on our radio and you expect to hear something that will express the staunch and rugged soul of the Pathans. What do you hear instead? A Punjabi Greta Garbo singing Pale Dulari with a variety of squeaks and yells that remind us of spring and puppies. I would request the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting to deliver us from the dancing girls of Lahore. The sooner the better.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can continue his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Sir, I stopped just when I requested the Honourable the Home Member to deliver us from the dancing girls of Lahore. If the A.I.R. is bent on stamping a national colour on every province of India, then we would not mind provided a few hours of Pushtu and a few Pathans are sent to every station in India and give a few hours of broadcasting from there. But if you mean to talk in the language of the people who listen to you, then it is senseless to send Punjabis to us, station for Pathans. You might just as well depute Mr. Lallubhai to teach Arabic to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. It is not funny, it is tragic. There is only one officer in the Peshawar station who is a Pathan and he is a very insignificant Programme Assistant. The Director and his Assistants, though perfectly educated and highly musical, know as much about the Pathans and their language as I know about the hippopotamus and his grunts.

Allow me to repeat what I said to Sir Akbar Hydari when he was Member for Information and Broadcasting last year. The fact that I can repeat the same to a Member of a popular Government is bad enough. I had said that

you may have an outsider for roads or planning or engineering or industry but you cannot have an outsider for music and propaganda. They are so deep and subtle and such an intimate part of the history and growth of race that no outsider, however, gifted he might be, can ever dare to understand them. In the name of ordinary human decency, may I appeal to the Member for Broadcasting to spare us. If he cannot turn the Peshawar station into an interpreter of our culture and a teacher of our principles of living, then he must shut it down. The money could be better spent on agriculture or drainage. It would be far better for the Pathans to have cabbages instead of erotic expeditions to throw the world in warm flesh and country liquor. I am not asking Sardar Patel for the moon. I am only objecting to a cross between Mary Stopes and Bibi Nurjahan being circulated all over the province as a model women for the Pathans to follow, love and worship. If the Government of India feels it necessary to speak to us and also to present a picture of our life and history to the world, let it provide for a true representation. Though the beautiful dancing girls of Lahore and the hiccoughing masters of Indian classic are no more representatives of the Pathans than the lusty braying of a donkey is a picture of the song of the nightingale, I do not mean to pretend that our music and life is an essence of culture and refinement, but I do submit that the picture distributed by the A.I.R., Peshawar, is not a true picture but a crooked and twisted lie. We expect better things than this from a National Government. Let the Pathans run their station for better or for worse. Let them speak like Pathans. Let it be put down as a basic principle by the Information Department that the Director of any station should be chosen from the people who will have to listen to the station. In the Centre you can have a cosmopolitan staff. The Centre station has an exclusive audience, but the provincial stations go to the villagers and the villagers must know what the Radio is talking about before it begins to do him any good.

We really must change the old system. It will hurt some people and will harm some people, some of them may lose their jobs, but we must get out of this old senseless rut not only in this department but everywhere else.

I have another grouse too. In the plan of expansion for the A.I.R. they have made a provision for broadcasts of Persian Persian and Afghan Persian for Iran and Afghanistan respectively. This illustrates the utter stupidity of the person who drafted the plan. The official language—the court language—of Afghanistan is Pushto and the language of 8 million Pathans is Pushto. Persian is spoken by the Persians and the Persian snobbish aristocracy of Kabul, a transplantation of Nadirshah. What is the point of forgetting 8 million Pathans in Afghanistan and 8 million Pathans outside it and bringing a programme solely for a few hundred over-fed Persian sardars. 'Afghan Persian', the very name is stupid. It is like saying English English and Madras English, or, as the Madras put it when he said that there are two varieties of cows, the bull cows and the cow cows. So, Afghan Persian should be eliminated from the 8 year plan and its place given to Pushtu. Every member of the Delhi-Pushtu section and the Peshawar Station must be a Pathan, except, of course, the technicians.

The third and the most important point is that the Peshawar station must speak Pushtu. We do not want to get embroiled in your Hindi-Urdu *Jhagra*. When you finally become the proud possessor of one language, we will give it the place of honour in our programme. But until then let us broadcast Pushtu, a language that is understood by Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs alike on that side of the Indus. I am not asking the Honourable Member for a favour but the barest of justice. I know he is a villager just as I am a villager. Bardoli and Hashnagar are the two places that put the most magnificent peasant struggles for the liberation of India. I am only asking him to think of that peasant not only in Bardoli but also in Peshawar.

[Khan Abdul Ghani Khan]

The city people of India have cinemas, circuses, theatres, processions, public meetings, to entertain them. The only thing that reaches the villager is the Radio. The spoken word education as against the written word education is an essential and very important means of education and especially go in a predominantly illiterate country like India. As I said, the city people have many things including comfortable things like central drainage, tarred roads and electricity, but this one source of entertainment, this instrument of education, should be used chiefly for the benefit of the villagers of India. If you admit that India lives in her villages and not in her cities, you will see that my request is not so unreasonable. I want the Peshawar station to speak the language of the people who listen to it. How can a teacher run a school when he cannot understand the language of his pupils? The usual plea of the A.I.R. is that among the senior staff there is no one who knows Pushto. We are supposed to console ourselves with the fact that the present Director has had Pathan ancestors in the distant hoary past. I say send a Bengali or a Gujrati there who knows the language and the people. I do not want a Pathan. I want a man there who will speak the language and who will know the people. If Sardar Patel does not agree with me, then he ought to appoint me the Director of Madras Radio Station. I am as well educated as any of his Directors with *Shantiniketan* thrown in and I am as great a master of Tamil as our present Director is of Pushto. So where is the difficulty? I am sorry to have to drag this unfortunate Director. He is not a personal enemy of mine, I rather like him. He plays on the *Tabla* beautifully and he is a very remarkable singer. But he does not know Pushto in spite of his Pathan ancestors. His immediate assistants are just the same. They are little geniuses, no doubt, but they are from Madras or Bengal or Punjab or somewhere else. I would request the Honourable Member to give the Pathan a chance. After all we have shown more political intelligence than the rest of India during the last twenty years. Except Hazara who are not Pathans, and were connected to us like an appendix, because the delicate rulers of the Frontier wanted a hill station where they could escape from the heat of Peshawar sun and the Pathan temper into a heaven of firs and pines. This appendix, Sir, has been septic from the day it was born and when all the province is in the Congress Hazara is in the Muslim League. If all the province has no riots, Hazara must have one or two. If we have a riot today, Hazara will join the Unity conference tomorrow. If we join the Muslim League, tomorrow Hazara will come and take the oath of non-violence at the feet of Mahatma Gandhi day after tomorrow. I am grieved to see that the septic tonsil has induced a fever in the body of the Pathans. But the Pathans are of rugged build and will get over it in spite of the appendix. May I take this opportunity of appealing to the Muslim League to stop this senseless movement in the Frontier which they are trying to pass off as a movement for civil liberty. It has degenerated into merely an organised communal riot. If you have a message to give to the Pathans it is better that you give it in a language that they understand and that it is given by one of their own people. It is as important to know whom you are talking to as it is to know what you are talking about.

The Peshawar station speaks to you, very important neighbours, the trans-frontier tribes and Afghanistan. The Peshawar station is a more important and more effective ambassador of India than any you would send to Kabul. It deserves a little attention though it is far away from Delhi and can boast of only one vote in this House. Sir, I move this Cut Motion. If I do not get a satisfactory reply from the Honourable Member, I will not withdraw my Cut Motion. The millions of Pathans who have sent me here certainly deserve more attention than one Party Whip if it is listened to. If the Party Whip alone is to be listened to all the time, there is no meaning in the word demo-

cracy in India. The Honourable the Home Member has proved himself a reasonable, wise and sympathetic man in spite of his reputation to the contrary. I hope he will see the justice of this Cut Motion and remove the cause instead of removing the Cut Motion out of his way Sir, I move

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Broadcasting be reduced by Rs 100'"

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting). Sir, it is a matter of great satisfaction that the All India Radio is attracting greater and greater attention, much more so that it has attracted so much attention even in the remotest province of North West Frontier. Now, whether the Honourable Mover withdraws his Cut Motion or not, I promise him that his speech, at least the substance of it, will be reported in Pushtu bulletin today. Now, avoiding humorous similes and irrelevancies, I shall say that his complaint can be divided into two parts, firstly that enough time has not been given for the Pushtu language and that the staff of the Broadcasting station is not indigenous or that all the staff are not Pathans. His apprehension is that the onslaught of the neighbouring Province in the matter of staff as well as language and culture and perhaps something else also which I shall not enumerate here. I can only say that the appointment of higher officers, i.e., the higher appointments—are all made on an all India basis. Perhaps he forgets that the officer in charge of the All India Radio was a man from the Frontier for nearly 12 years. I do not know whether anybody complained that the All India Radio was ruled by a Frontier man up to now. If the sub-station of Peshawar was neglected it was neglected during the time of the Frontier man. Therefore he can have no grievance against the Interim Government. Now, we have also a Director of the Bombay Station who is also a Frontier man. We have now on the staff in the Frontier, a Director who is Frontier born. I do not know whether he recognises him as a Pathan or not, but he is a Frontier man.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: He was born in Gujrat, he pretends to be a Pathan but he is really a Punjabi.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Now, we have not yet passed any law about naturalisation of the Frontier. Indian Naturalisation law is yet to be enacted. But on our record we find that Mr. Niazi, the head of the Frontier Broadcasting Station is a Frontier man. You just coax him to learn Pushtu. Get a good man as his teacher. We shall ask him to take some tuition from you and we will see if after six months' trial, he does not prove himself to be qualified in Pushtu or certified by you as a qualified man fit to be placed in charge of Peshawar station. If he does not prove his merit in Pushtu, we shall have to transfer him. Besides the Director, there are eight Programme Assistants. Out of eight Programme Assistants, two are non-Pushtu speaking, and three are Pushtu speaking Programme Assistants. There are three vacancies for which orders have been passed that Pushtu speaking people alone should be appointed. So, out of eight Programme Assistants, we shall have six Pushtu speaking Programme Assistants. They are really the men that matter so far as the common people are concerned.

Now, about the time, well up to now, there were three hours given to Pushtu out of a programme of nine hours 45 minutes. Now according to the recent orders which have been published in a Press Note on the language question which was discussed the day before yesterday, 50 per cent of the programme is given to Pushtu. Therefore ample time will be provided for this purpose. After that there should not be much grievance. I may also add that the programme published according to the recent Press Note has been fixed in consultation with the Frontier Province Government. They have accepted it *in toto* and if they have endorsed it. I think my Honourable friend should have no grievance. Besides this the Frontier Government have been

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

asked to get into touch with us in the matter of news bulletins and programmes. If they have any complaint they have simply to write to us. Besides that also, the Frontier Publicity Officer has been asked to keep in touch with the All India Radio, and to send his complaints telegraphically. But although my Honourable friend here is so much vocal, the Frontier Government never speaks and never answers any calls.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: The Publicity Officer is not a Pathan and he is in the same boat as the Director.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: He may not be a Pathan. But he is so pathanised that he also does not say anything in reply to our communications. If my Honourable friend has any grievance, he has simply to move the Frontier Government and send his complaints to us and these complaints will be promptly attended to. If any more complaints are there he has simply to write to us, because the Frontier Pathan is easily satisfied and pleased with little things and small gestures are enough for him. So he will have no complaint so far as the radio is concerned; if he sends in a complaint it will be immediately attended to. But he must understand that the appointments are made under certain rules. We cannot make appointments straightaway; we have to go through the procedure of the rules and through the Public Services Commission. We cannot remove and dismiss the old staff. Since I have taken charge I have heard numerous complaints about the staff of the broadcasting stations. Some say they are almost all Muslims, others say that the Muslim proportion is not enough. Some say that Urdu culture is being smothered while others say Hindi culture is being smothered. Some say Kanarese is not given a place at all and if Pushtu is given a place Kanarese should be given preference and priority. I have promised priority to Kanarese and so others may have to wait for some time. It is a difficult proposition to please all. We have an eight-year programme for the expansion of broadcasting facilities all over India. Even so we have complaints as to which station should be taken up first. It is very difficult to satisfy all. But it makes us glad to see that people are taking greater interest in broadcasting facilities and we shall do our best to satisfy all the legitimate desires and demands of the people. And now as I have promised the Honourable Member that the substance of his speech will be broadcast today in Pushtu I hope he will withdraw his motion.

Khan Abdull Ghani Khan: Sir, it is not because of the promise that my speech will be broadcast in Pushtu but because of the promise that he will give the Director six months and then remove him if he is found unsatisfactory that I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The Cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. II—CABINET

General policy of the Defence Department

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs 100."

On this motion I wish to discuss the general policy of the Defence Department.

It is rightly said that the fortunate ones who dabble in public affairs pass through three stages: first they are agitators when they are confined to the hustings and the street corners; then they become politicians when they join the opposition in a legislature; and at last they flower out into statesmen when they sit on the Government benches. The Finance Member and the Defence Member successfully and comparatively comfortably passed through all these

stages unlike others on their as well as other sides of the House. And now when they are statesmen they find themselves in a safe position and they utter all sorts of threats in this House and outside. Yesterday we had the unseemly sight of even a person like our respected and Honourable friend the Supply Member losing his temper at some remarks made by some members of the House which he was speaking because those others were not feeling at one with him in all that he was saying.

Then, Sir, you will remember and the House will remember, that on one occasion in the course of the many speeches that he has delivered on his financial proposals, the Finance Member also got his wind up and said, "I am not going to be threatened; I am not going to be hustled, I am not going to withdraw any of the proposals that I am making." And I was wondering how it is that Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan whom... ..

An Honourable Member: He is not Nawabzada now, plain Mr.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In my province a person is called a Nawab not only because he has received a title from Government but because it is an affectionate expression for all good and great men. And then retainers and others like myself call their minor sons Nawabzadas!

Now, Sir, as one who has known the Nawabzada—or Mr whatever he likes to call himself—for a good long time and known him as a perfect gentleman as in the manner born, I was rather surprised when he used such threatening language, and I wonder how it is that he uses that language. And when I found that in this budget he has reserved 188 crores worth of men and material to force his wishes down the throats of this House and of the world outside, I realised how and why he could change both his manners and his opinions. And I can assure Honourable Members in whose salaries—and if not in salaries at least in traveling allowances—I want to make a cut of Rs 100—and who have honoured me by being absent this afternoon showing the importance that they place on a cut like this—that they need not indulge in any threats at all, that we are here with them more or less and that we are willing to help them if they want to be helped and that they should not forget their own opinions that they expressed in the past nor their own experiences.

Sir, the present Government loves to call itself a Cabinet, that word has been officially approved of and appears in the budget papers, and in fact it appears even in my cut. If it is a Cabinet why does it not depend on the vote of this House rather than upon the army? Why is all this expenditure non-voted? Why is it all threateningly printed in italics showing to the world and to us that we cannot interfere with a pie of it? I say the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and if political parties are today clamouring to be given dominion status and to be treated as a dominion Government, let the Government that represents them be bold enough to come to this House and say "We will regard every vote that you give as a vote of confidence, and if you do not want any expenditure to be incurred we shall agree to it." Why ask to be a dominion Government and say you are a Cabinet responsible to the people and responsive to public opinion, and then take shelter behind the bad law under which we are ruled and say that the whole thing is non-voted?

That is a thing that I cannot understand. All this bloated budget is supposed to be due to the bad legacy of the war, but the war was not our war and this Government consisting of parties that definitely declared themselves against that war, should come forward and say that as that war was not their war therefore they are not bound with the liabilities and the commitments that were made by those whose war it was, and that they will not be responsible for the meeting of those liabilities and the fulfilling of those commitments. Let those whose war it was, meet the difficulties and pay for them. I think Sir, it is upto this Government to repudiate all those liabilities and to claim to be an independent

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State. If this war had been our war Mr. Churchill, as the Prime Minister of England, would not have declared from the housetops that he was not there to preside over the liquidation of his Empire and that he meant to keep that Empire. The war was fought at least so far as his country went for the maintenance of the Empire and for continuing their holdup on the world, and therefore it is not we who should be made to pay for it.

If any proof was wanted as to whether we did or did not regard this war as ours, we have only to recall the events of 1940 when we were asked to go and proclaim in the public streets, in town and country alike, that to give a man or a rupee to this war was as a sin, and in consequence so many of us had to go for long periods in jail simply because we said these words in public. If that is not proof enough of the fact that this war was not our war, I do not think any one could bring forward another proof more convincing or forceful. It is a pity that those who go about in other lands as our Ambassadors or our Agents or our Representatives now refer to our so called sacrifices in this war and on the basis of those supposed sacrifices, ask for many favours and many privileges. We cannot build up the edifice of our freedom on falsehoods, and if we were against this war our representatives everywhere should declare that that war was none of our seeking and that we were against that war.

The English Chancellor of the Exchequer, Dr. Hugh Dalton has been saying that he is going to present a formidable bill to us for having fought our war, for having defended us. Whenever we raise our claim for the sterling balances, he wants to threaten us by saying that he has even a heavier counter-claim to make. I do not know how the Government is going to meet it, but I should say that the war was not our war in any sense and that we were not defended by them in any way. In fact we were crushed, we were humbled, our leaders were sent to long terms of imprisonment; and the whole country laid low under their iron heel. Any one who knows the true history of India from 1942 to 1945 will bear me out when I say that, and to proclaim that they defended us is a travesty of facts. We were smothered, we were ruined, we were not defended.

Let us look at the budget. Formerly our defence budget used to be of an average of 46 crores per year. In 1938-1939, which was the last budget circulated before yesterday, the budget is of 50 crores. Today it is 188 crores. The figure shows that the effective services require 192 crores and the non-effective about 12 crores, making a total of 204 crores. There is a sum of 15 crores which are expected as receipts, thus the total net expenditure comes to 188 crores. Formerly also we had to pay about 58 per cent of the revenue to the Army and today also the same proportion is being kept up. Out of 324 crores we have to pay 188 crores.

I know there is this trouble of inflation, I know there are heaps of currency notes floating about; there is a lot of artificial money. Therefore I shall fix your attention and the attention of the House on the proportion. The proportion is the same today as it was before. Russia and America are suspected of having imperialistic designs in the coming world. Russia's expenditure is 18 per cent; only today of its gross revenue on the Army, and the United States is going to spend 33 per cent. of its gross revenue on its forces. If these two countries can do with such small proportions for their revenue for expenditure on their defence, I cannot see why India cannot do with less than 60 per cent. In the six years of the war, instead of 800 crores that we might have ordinarily spent, we actually spent 2000 crores of rupees. I ask, Sir, can a poor country stand this expenditure?

It has been the demand of our leaders through the decades that the expenditure on the Army was much too much, and it is time that when the representatives of the people are in power, they should see to it that the

expenditure on the Army is considerably decreased. The other day I ventured to ask the Defence Secretary as to what the soldiers like when he said that soldiers do not like to be summoned to help in civil commotion. He then threatened to read out a whole list of the duties of soldiers as his reply to my query. I was not asking what the soldier's duties were. I was asking what do the soldiers like to do, for we know that duty is something which we have to do whether we like it or not, and most of us do not like our duties. So duty is a harsh expression.

I wanted to know what the soldiers like to do and the whole thing came out in the course of an answer to a question and the supplementaries to which he was subjected. It was the case of an assault made on a club in Jhansi by some soldiers, and he confessed then that they arrived there 'in a merry mood'. That is what the soldier likes, that is not his duty, I take it it is his pleasure. And then, Sir, from his reply—and I am rather cute at these things—I gathered thus: the soldiers go there, they see two girls dancing together, they do not like that, and make an assault, because the European system of dancing requires, as far as I know and as far as I have seen, that a man and a woman should dance together and not two members of the same sex. They naturally saw no justification for two girls to dance together. The scene upset the soldiers for they said that instead of then dancing together, the two should detach themselves from each other and dance separately instead with two of themselves. As the girls did not like that, there was all that trouble.

I really do not need this extraordinary expenditure on the army. We know that there is a tremendous amount of wastage in the army, that the standards of life of our soldiers is made artificially high, that it is not in keeping with the ordinary standards of life as lived in India and in the classes from which they are drawn. Therefore we feel that the expenditure should be curtailed considerably.

There is another thing that the soldier likes and that is the parade. The other day there was a parade, where George Crosses were given to some persons who, I fear, were unworthy of receiving them. We shall have more on the subject when we come to a question about it. But between parades and dancing we feel that we cannot afford to spend 188 crores.

I may be asked what are your definite, concrete proposals, as members of the Government are very prone to ask. First of all we should have peace with the world. We should declare that every other country is our friend. We should sign treaties of peace with every one. That is the first thing that I should do. Then I should have conscription. I should call upon every adult man and woman to undergo certain definite military training, so that he or she may be ready in any emergency to help not only in civil commotion but also to defend the country against external aggression. I say that I should put down roughly 20 crores for the standing army and 20 crores for conscription.

I am not going to make the budget of expenditure before I look at the income. I shall find out what my income is before I embark on expenditure. That is what an ordinary prudent householder would do—that is what any prudent state should also do. We shall do as much as we can with and under these two sets of 20 crores. That would bring down our expenditure at once from 188 crores to 40 crores. It is no good first of all saying "I will build myself a palace" and then going about looting innocent people in order that that palace might be built. That is not the way in which I would go about the business. That is the surest way to ruin. It is the rake's progress and that must be stopped.

I therefore feel that if we went about the business in a sensible, common-sense manner, we can balance the budget. We can also fit the people to take care of themselves. We can defend our country against internal commotion and external aggression. It is no good expanding and ever expanding departments of Government. It is no good making it impossible for anyone outside

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Government service to live. The whole endeavour seems to me to expand government services, to create new departments and never to abolish any departments, even if they are useless. That is why all these expenses have been going to this unmanageable, unthinkable, unfathomable and uncheckable extremes.

We want in our country independent professions also. They are the salt of the earth. It is not only the government servant that counts it is the non-government servant who has also a definite position. And the way Government is going is only leading to a desire on the part of every one to join some one department of the government or the other. Let not the soldier be a mercenary, who in the words of Bernard Shaw, 'is hired to be shot'? Let him be a soldier who loves his country, who is willing to lay down his life for his country, who is not fighting for the few rupees that he gets but who serves in the army because of the inherent affection that he has for the land of his birth. That is the way in which you can call up from human nature the best that there is in it.

You have got the example of the Indian National Army. They did not fight so well when they fought only for money. But when they became soldiers of a national army, they put their heart and soul in their fight and lived almost on starvation diet and did their very best to win the lost independence of their country. That is an example before us. We do not want every one to become a government servant.

My Honourable friend the Supply Member yesterday was defending his subordinates in the service. He said that every one of them has so many sons, grandsons and relatives. That is the way in which the Government is trying to rope in every one—that is the old system. If a person joined a political party, let us say, then a local official would come and threaten to do some harm to some distant relative of his who was in government service.

That is the way in which Government has roped in most of our people. About 2 per cent of our people, I understand, are already in Government service; and with our large families, unfortunately, they can count about 20 times as many in the form of dependents and other who are also dependent on government service. In this way masses of our people are dependent upon this Government. That is not the way in which a people can prosper. That is not the way in which we can find our feet in this world. I say this defence expenditure is monstrous—it must be cut-down—it must be stopped. We must not, at least as far as lies in our power, allow more than 40 crores to be spent on the defence services. We must beware of the tentacles that the Government is spreading in order to catch us all and lead us to virtual slavery.

With 188 crores out of our revenue of 324 crores going to the army, what would be left for the development of all those services which help to build up the nation? What is the amount that they are going to spend on education, what on medical relief. How can they spend anything on these services, when the octopus of the army is ever present to devour every thing that we can make. The Honourable the Finance Member said that he was going to help the poor. In this budget I see nothing that would help the poor. He is attempting to balance the budget by inflicting more and more taxation and bringing more and more people to ruin. That is not the way to do things properly and well.

If he would only make up his mind that he can get out of people without inflicting any harm on them only so many crores of rupees, then he can safely go about spending those crores of rupees on various departments of government. I can assure him and assure every one of his colleagues, that he can do nothing so long as he allows 188 crores, that is 60 per cent. of the whole of the State revenue, to go into the army. If he thinks that in the years to come he would be able to contract the army, that he would be able to spend less and

less on the army. he is mistaken, because these departments of Government can never be extinguished: they grow and grow. He must take a firm stand at once. I do hope that the House will see where it is being led and beware of what is coming.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Sir, I rise to whole heartedly support the cut motion moved by my friend Nawabzada Sri Prakasa—that is the title given to him by the Honourable Members of this House. I am very sorry to see, Sir, that the Honourable the Defence Member is absent on this occasion. I do not know whether he is in the town. But as I heard, in the Council of State on a similar occasion like this he was absent. I want that he should treat this subject and specially the discussion that takes place in this House on this subject as important and enlighten us with his views on these matters that are discussed on the floor of this House.

I need not go much into the details with regard to the expenditure on Defence as the mover has dealt with it at great length and explained to us and we are more than satisfied that there is something wrong in the matter of the expenditure in defence problems. I said the other day in my speech on the discussion of the Budget that the Defence expenditure was very high and I referred to the financial incompetence of the Defence Department. There is a heavy establishment at present in the General Headquarters. I do not see any reason why there should be such a big staff which requires, as I said the other day, 42 pages to be taken in the telephone directory. The defence expenditure at the moment is indeed very high, compared to what it was before the war. Now that the war is over I see no justification for the same expenditure to continue any longer. I am very glad that the Honourable the Finance Member while replying to this question the other day assured us that he would personally see that the defence expenditure is cut down. I feel that at least 10 per cent of the expenditure should be cut down straightaway so that we shall have saved at least Rs. 18 crores and the heavy taxation which is now proposed will be lightened to a certain extent. For an instance I would quote that there is a contract to buy one cruiser from His Majesty's Government. But I am told that the Government of India propose to buy three cruisers. I see no justification for this when we are obliged to buy only one under the contract.

I personally feel that this big question of defence expenditure should be placed before the Defence Consultative Committee and the advice of its members sought. I am sorry to say that this Defence Consultative Committee seems to be a Committee only on paper. I have had occasion to talk with several members of the Committee and I have come to understand that this Committee meets very rarely. The object of this Committee when it was originally appointed was that the Defence Consultative Committee which represents the Members of this House will be consulted on matters of importance. But what do we see? Since the session started the Committee has met once. It was elected a year ago and it has only met thrice. I think the Defence Consultative Committee should meet frequently—at least once a month—and it should be the duty of the Defence Department to consult this Committee before the Government takes any steps whether in matters of expenditure or in respect of broader policies affecting the Department. It was rather surprising the other day when I put certain questions to the Honourable Defence Secretary to be told that certain matters are secret and that they cannot be placed before the Defence Consultative Committee. What is the use of having a Committee in which you have no confidence? I feel the Government of India should take this Defence Consultative Committee into their confidence.

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Then I would refer to the question of troops overseas. As we are all aware, there are a large number of troops which have been sent to Japan. The expenditure incurred over this item is indeed very great. I see no justification for the Government of India to bear this expenditure. Either withdraw these troops straightaway or see that no further expenditure is involved on this item. I remember when troops were sent overseas, to Iraq, Iran, Malaya and other places, this expenditure used to be borne by His Majesty's Government. I do not know the reasons why we should be saddled with this expenditure. I also feel that the troops which may be sent overseas in future should not be sent without consulting the Defence Consultative Committee, this practice of sending troops overseas without consulting this House should stop forthwith. We have on the floor of this House in the past criticised the policy of the Government of India in sending Indian troops overseas without consulting the Legislature. I hope in future this practice will cease.

I shall now refer to the question of the Nationalisation Committee. As far as I am aware this Committee came into being without the consultation of this House or without reference to the Defence Consultative Committee. I should like to know what is the policy of this Committee and what is the new policy of this Committee going to be, especially after the recent statement of His Majesty's Government. As we all know, powers are going to be transferred to Indian hands next year. I am very glad that the Honourable the Defence Member is here and I welcome him to this House. I hope he would enlighten us on all the matters that are placed before the House by the Members of this House. I should like to know what will be the future policy of the Indianisation of armed forces, especially after the recent statement of His Majesty's Government. Personally I feel that control of the army should definitely remain in Indian hands, but I feel and believe that the question of withdrawal of British officers should be gradual and slow. Until we have sufficient officers of wider experience to arm the army I personally feel that the British officers should to a certain extent remain in India for some time to come. I do hope that this Nationalisation Committee will give careful consideration to this question.

With regard to the Indian Air Force I suggest that the technicians should be all Indians. At the same time I feel that the extent of the squadrons that we have in India should be increased. I am informed that we have ten squadrons at the moment. I feel that this is rather a small number and should be at least doubled. I do not know the reason why trained technicians should be demobilised. They should not be demobilised in as quick a manner as is being done at present. With regard to the aircraft that is now being used I suggest that we should have the best American aircrafts. As we now see, the airways in India are importing very good aircraft from America. These are much better than we have ever had before. I do feel that better aircraft should be given to our people for their training. At the moment I see that single machines are used. I feel that the latest machines should be used by our people. For operational purposes the latest types of American machines should be used. In view of the greater responsibilities to be shouldered in future it is important from the point of view of defence that our air force should be given a chance of using the latest machines.

I have just said with regard to demobilisation that it has no doubt been very necessary but, as I said, in view of the recent statement of His Majesty's Government the position should be reconsidered.

In the matter of naval officers the ratio of demobilisation at present is 68 per cent whereas the army is being demobilised 83 per cent. I feel that in the matter of the navy the demobilisation should not be so rash as it is at present. I suggest not to get rid of qualified officers who are serving in the navy at present, for it will be very difficult to get experienced officers to

replace the officers who are going to be demobilised. The development of the navy should be on a greater scale and the importance of the navy should not be underestimated. We should have a large number of destroyers and submarines. India has hardly any at the moment. I feel that training should also be given to the crew of India in the matter of operating submarines and destroyers.

Now, Sir, I would refer to the question of Civil Ordinance Officers—a question which we discussed only yesterday morning. I was not quite satisfied with the case put forward by the Honourable Defence Secretary and I am sure none of us are satisfied. At the moment as I am informed, 135 notices have been served for the discharge of the people out of whom 85 are going to be discharged today. The Nationalisation Committee has recommended after very careful consideration that these notices should be cancelled and that a corresponding number of junior British officers should be sent away. This recommendation of the Committee has been overlooked. I hope the Honourable Defence Member who is present here this afternoon will explain to us the position in regard to the serving of these notices and I hope he will consider very sympathetically the question of withdrawing the notices on these officers. We were told yesterday on the floor of the House that these British officers hold technical qualifications. I am told by those officers whom I had the pleasure of meeting recently that there are a large number of Indian officers who do hold equal qualifications, the same qualifications as the British officers and I personally see no reason and no justification whatsoever for this serving of notices and asking them to quit. In view of the assurance yesterday that no more notices will be issued to these officers, is it not fair and just that the 135 officers now under notice should be given the chance of selection along with the other 800 civilian officers. In view of the assurance, is not Government taking up a self-contradictory position, when on the one hand they allow about 800 civilian officers to take the chance of selection as promised and on the other hand they deny the same chance to these 135 officers for no fault of theirs. I would like to ask one question of the Defence Member. Is it not a fact that these 135 officers have also undergone the same intensive and elaborate course of training as the other officers? Have they not done the same jobs with equal if not more efficiency? Above all have they not been selected by the Federal Public Service Commission and are they not graduates, double graduates and perhaps triple graduates?

Now, I would like to raise the question of the percentage of Muslims. Originally the total percentage of Muslims was 4 per cent. for Ordinance Officers in the department but later on it was made up to 25 per cent after recruitment through the Federal Public Service Commission. I would suggest to the Honourable Member that when he is about to retrench these officers he should bear in mind to keep the quota of 25 per cent of Muslims when the selections are made and they are prepared to go before the Federal Public Service Commission when the matter goes to them for the selection of those who are going to be retained.

Now, Sir, one more word, while we are on the subject of defence expenditure. I would like to point out the position of business men in the country in regard to the services which they have rendered to the army in India. I have received various letters and representations from different merchants, particularly from the Southern Command, wherefrom I come. I would like to bring to the notice of the Defence Member who is fortunately present here that most of the contractors who have served the army in the matter of construction of buildings, supplying transport of cars and buses, have not been paid their bills which amount to lakhs of rupees. They are being sent from pillar to post. The contracts were fulfilled more than a year ago. Now the war is over. The Garrison Engineer says that they should go to the Area Office. The

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Area Office says they should go to the Military Accounts. Then they are asked to go to the General Officer Commanding in Chief and now they are asked to go to the General Headquarters. There is a definite contract entered into between the army and the contractors. There is a definite liability on the part of the Government to pay their bills and they should be paid at once. I do not see any justification why their just claims should be overlooked. Now, they are told that the matter must be referred to arbitration. I feel that there is no reason for arbitration. They should be allowed to file suits against the army and recover their outstandings.

One word about the position of the officers of the I.M.D. who held emergency commissions during the period of the war. These officers have proved their ability professionally and administratively and have fulfilled the requirements of regular senior officers. They were appointed to senior administrative appointments in the General Headquarters. They were given special appointments and in some cases were advisers to Commands and even held such appointments in the General Headquarters.

It is understood that very shortly these officers are to be reverted to their pre-war status of Warrant Officer but are to carry out duties equivalent to that of Captains and Lieutenants. Is it presumed that these officers are incapable of acquiring the responsibilities of Senior Officers, namely of Majors, or Lt.-Colonels? If so, how is it that at the present moment they are being employed in such administrative appointments—namely in command of hospitals, units and D.A.D. Ms.

It has been stressed that these officers were qualified and able to hold commissioned appointments in the Service during the period of the war and have been well reported on. It seems ridiculous and arbitrary to suddenly designate them as unqualified and that they should be brought down to a subordinate status just because places have to be found for younger men. These men have given the best part of their lives to the Service, and are now placed in a position where they are not given an opportunity to choose or decide but are forced to accept the lesser evil and take a position which but for their loyalty they might have been able to better.

It is understood that these officers are not being given favourable terms to opt out of the service and as such will be forced to continue in the Service or forfeit the benefits of a number of years. For example, no man below 21 years' service can hope to draw a pension. Their contemporaries in the I.U.L. who are Europeans, are getting very much better terms.

It is understood that all emergency commissions for the I.M.D. alone are to cease on the 1st of April, while even British Emergency Commissioned Officers attached to the Indian Army, and Navy may continue to carry such commissions until October. If this is so, it is most unfair, as the terms for the reversion of these officers have not yet been published, to revert them to a subordinate status without giving them enough time to decide on their future. Sir, I have done.

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia (Punjab Landholders). Before I go on to deal with the Defence Budget, I may be permitted to refer to the last speaker who has just spoken who has referred to the absence of our Defence Member. If I may say so, the absence was not because our Defence Member wanted to be absent but because of certain happenings which my province has recently gone through. As regards the causes of that, I should not like to say anything. It was due to these happenings that the Defence Member had to go to the Punjab and that was the reason why he was not here but now I find that he is already here.

Mr. Sri Prakasa mentioned—why is it that this Government of ours, has not come to this House and got a vote on the Defence Budget. If I may say so, the reason is not far to seek. After the end of the war, two years have passed and I find that the Government have still not prepared any plans regarding what the future of our army, air force and navy is going to be. What I mean is that as yet they have not decided what their future strength is going to be. Unless they decide this, they cannot proceed further. This is borne out in this memorandum on page 4 of which it is said that no final decision has yet been reached regarding the size and composition of India's post war armed forces. It would obviously be a waste of time and effort to give meticulous details and information regarding the features of this estimate. I wonder if they think that it is waste of time and effort to think of what the composition and size of our future defence services are going to be. I hope not, because I am quite sure that our present Government which he says he is a Cabinet and is working for the good of India, will do their best to make these defence services what they should be in a free India. I should like to add that the policy which has been followed before this Government took over was the policy which was enunciated not in India but from a place which, as you say, is across the seas, I mean from Whitehall. It was a policy which was followed not for the benefit of India but for the benefit of a foreign power. I daresay that the policy that our National Government is going to follow now will be to have an Indian army, an India Air Force and an Indian Navy for India and not for any other power. I would just like to mention a few figures here regarding how this foreign power has worked and manipulated this Department that it has been used entirely for the benefit of England or Britishers and not of Indians.

Before the war started—I speak subject to correction—the British officers in the Indian army numbered 200 only. This number gradually increased. I daresay the Defence Department will say that the number was increased because of a war which was not of their making. But the facts are that from 200 that figure stands today at 1,500 officers. Now, let me see how these officers are employed? I would just take the case of one Headquarter, which is a pointer to what is happening in others. I am going to take the Air Headquarters, India. In 1939, I believe, there were only 18 officers running this Headquarter. Today I find that, though a certain number of people have been sent away, that number stands at 350, approximately. So, the increase is from 18 to 350. It is more than 15 times. I admit that the Air Force has expanded. I also admit that formerly where there was just one squadron of the Indian Air Force, there are now about ten. But surely 350 officers running a Headquarter which was formerly run by only 18 is too much. Even if the figure had been increased four-fold or five-fold, it should have been round about 50 or 80, but 350 is much, too much. It shows also that these heavily over-staffed people have not got enough work to do there. Again, out of these 350, if I am not mistaken, 70 per cent of them are British officers. That is how the British officers, the numbers of which have been swollen to such an enormous figure, are employed. They are employed not in fighting units but sitting down on kushi arm chairs in Headquarters and asking the other people to fight or to do the work for them.

There is another point which I want to bring to the notice of the House and that is the morale of the R.I.A.F. I have had a talk with quite a few of the officers and I have no hesitation in saying that it has gradually gone down and this reason which my Honourable friend Mr. Jaffer, who is not here, hinted at is perfectly true, namely, they are getting obsolete and unreliable flying machines. I am sure the Department would come out and say that they have got Spitfires, Spitfires, I admit, are good machines, but they have got several marks. The Spitfire 14, with which the Indian Air Force has now been equipped, are not good machines. Only two squadrons in the R.A.F. are

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equipped by these machines and I believe they too discarded them about a couple of years ago. These machines have now been given to the Indian Air Force as one of the very first line aircraft. These machines are utterly unreliable and, if I may say so, they are obsolete. If you give our pilots these machines, no wonder their morale is going down. I would suggest and support Mr Jaffer's suggestion that machines for the Indian Air Force should be of the very first or very best available. We should not confine ourselves to machines only from Britain. We should get the best from wherever they are available, and, as he suggested, America is not a bad proposition. This reminds me of another thing, and that is the step-motherly treatment which has been received by the Indian Air Force at the hands of Air Headquarters, India which is manned entirely by the R A F personnel. I remember, when the war started, the Indian Air Force, although comprising of only one squadron, was equipped with Wapitis. This aircraft, I believe, originated in the last Great War. It reminds me also of what the Americans used to call them. They called them "What-a-pty", and that was very true. We passed that stage and the R A F at that time were coming to the 'Hurricanes' and the Indian Air Force was re-equipped as they say, with 'Harts' and 'Audaxs', which were made somewhere in 1922, and this happened in the year 1939. These were supposed to be modern machines for the Indian Air Force then. Let me carry you a bit further. What happened when the 'Lysanders', with which the Indian Air Force was re-equipped later on? The R A F discarded them. They did not know what to do with them and they found a very convenient method of handing it over to the Indian Air Force. With these examples, it is clear that the Air Headquarters has been functioning not for the benefit of anybody in India or for their services, but for the benefit of services which do not belong to India.

Now, I would take the House to another point and that is regarding equipment. I find on page 5 of this memorandum:

"Under the operations of this settlement,—(meaning war time financial settlement)—"the great bulk of defence expenditure was debited as incurred to H. M.'s government but India subsequently gave credits to that government for her share of such expenditure."

This shows that His Majesty's Government incurred the expenditure but the India Government was never consulted. They later on asked the India Government to make good the money. In this equipment, I dare say there is quite a lot of equipment of surplus stores which the Indian Air Force even, with its obsolete machines does not require. I hope the Honourable the Defence Member with his usual vigilance will see that this surplus material which is not required by Indian defence service is not palmed off to India.

I see that my time is coming near. I have a lot of things to say. I shall only touch upon the most important ones in passing reference. I find there is quite a lot of duplication of work in General Headquarters. I have not got ample time at my disposal to refer to all the different kinds of duplication. I will briefly mention them. There is the Resettlement Department which is very nearly doing the same work as the Labour Department. The one is the military and the other is the civil department. I see no reason why both these departments should not be amalgamated and thus a lot of expenditure saved for defence budget on that head alone. Similarly there are many offsprings of war. The welfare department and the Morale Department. Formerly before the war, the Adjutant General used to perform both the functions. I do not see any reason why he should not do so again and the two departments should come under his jurisdiction. I am quite sure he can do that with a very much decreased staff than he is having at the moment.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (Government of India: Nominated Official): The Welfare Branch created during the war has been abolished.

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: I am glad to hear of it.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau. Indian Commerce). But grants are still being given. To that extent my Honourable friend has not stopped that.....

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: I have not got time for allowing these interruptions. I must proceed with my speech. I have got quite a lot to say. A very senior officer of the Air Force made a pleasure trip in a service aircraft at Government expense which is entirely an unwarranted thing, it is against the rules and regulations.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Who is he?

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: He is A.O. C.-in-C, I believe, it was only last Saturday that he along with his wife and I dare say a couple of friends who were civilians went over to Agra from Delhi at 3 p.m. I do not know for what purpose they went there. Perhaps they went to see the Taj by moonlight, because they returned at eleven O'clock at night. Here is an example of a senior responsible officer who is expected to enforce discipline in the force behaving like this. Do you know whom he has replaced? He replaced the Air Marshal Sir Rodrick Carr, who I know from personal experience was all out for the Indian Air force. He said so many times that he was anxious to hand over the Air Headquarters to an entirely Indian personnel. I believe two officers from England visited India, they are the Inspector General of R A F and another Air Member who was an Air Chief Marshal and they visited India, I hope not at Government expense and when they came here and heard the views of Sir Rodrick Carr, probably they got enraged and he was served with notice to quit in 24 hours as being unfit to hold charge of the administration. But, Sir, who was responsible for the administration of the Indian Air Force even during the time of Sir Rodrick Carr. It was the present A O C because he was A O A at that time. Well, if he is dubbed as a good administrator, then God help India, and Air headquarters. The old Air Chief was therefore pushed out and the present fellow promoted for the simple reason that the former was a pro-Indian and he wanted the air force to be handed over to Indian personnel. Incidentally I may mention that the starting of a Transport squadron in the Indian air force was his idea. No one else did it before. Formerly they said there are 10 I A F squadrons. They were all Fighter Recce squadrons. What a balanced Air Force. It was he who started off that you must have a balanced Indian Air Force and he gave definite orders which have materialised now. Now you have made a beginning with one transport squadron. He was doing an honest job of good work for the Indian air force. I believe that is the reason why he was turned out. One thing more before I sit down. I would request that the pay question of the service personnel should receive very careful consideration at the hands of our Defence Member. There have been quite a lot of people who are leaving the Indian Air Force because they are getting better pay outside in civilian jobs. I would like the Defence Member to see that the service personnel are rest assured that they will be paid nothing less than what their civilian counter-parts are paid at the moment. If this assurance is forthcoming, I am quite sure that the present state of affairs which exist in the Indian Air Force will soon be remedied. If my memory serves me aright, at the present moment, there are no more than 20 aircrafts men belonging to Group I and the basic reason for this small number is that they are not sure what their future is going to be and what their service conditions will be. If some sort of assurance is given to them the panic would go. They are all afraid whether they would be retained in service or not. Air Force is very essential for the defence of India.

Sir, with these words I support the Cut Motion moved by my Honourable friend Shri Sri Prakasa.

Mr. Frank E. Anthony (Nominated: Non-Official): I feel sure that I echo the sentiments of this House when I welcome the Honourable the Defence Member and I need only tell him that we expect great things from him, and

I believe we are not unreasonable in our expectations. The first point that I should like to refer to is a point suggested to me by a remark dropped by my Honourable friend Mr Jaffer. He asked the Defence Member to bear in mind communal proportions in the composition of the Indian army. Sir, I am the last person to deny or attempt to repudiate the needs of any community. But so far as the army is concerned I make an ardent and earnest plea that he will set his face strongly against any suggestion or implication of a communal composition in the army. I believe that if we have to be grateful to the British for anything we have to be grateful to them for giving us an army which is non-communal in spirit. I believe that any one who has the interests of this country at heart will realise that if we attempt to let in even remotely any suggestion of communalism, we will be opening the flood-gates to forces which will destroy inevitably my chance of maintaining—as we should maintain—a completely reliable and integrated fighting force in this country—a fighting force which will rise above any sectional or sectarian differences in this country, a fighting force which should be the only guarantee not only as regards internal security but as against external aggression. And in this respect I would like to ask the Honourable Defence Member as to what extent the proposals of the Willcox Army Reorganisation Committee have been implemented. I know—I believe I am correct in saying—that that Committee also stressed this point, that progressive measures must be implemented to make the army completely non-communal in character, and with this object in view it was suggested that the few existing communal units should be scrapped and that all battalions should be built up on an entirely non-communal basis. It was conceded for the purpose of administrative convenience, for the purpose of catering for different needs—perhaps religious needs—that we may have different companies recruited from various communities; but that was the greatest concession that the Willcox Army Reorganisation Committee was prepared to make to communal demands. I might mention here that although the Defence Department has only very recently come under the control of one of our own people there is an increasing disappointment with the attitude of that department,—not personally so far as the Defence Member is concerned but more perhaps as regards the attitude of his department. Some people feel that the change has not been a change for the better, that we are still confronted with the old official and bureaucratic complexes, that when we seek to draw their attention to very real grievances and needs for revision we are fobbed off with bureaucratic excuses and the usual attempt to justify anything, however unjustifiable it may be. My Honourable friend Mr Sri Prakasa asked the Defence Department to consider ways and means of reducing the tremendous burden which our Defence Estimates involve. I will only refer to one case, where in spite of the strong and definite recommendations of the Finance Department the Defence Department is seeking deliberately to flout these recommendations. I am talking of persons referred to by Mr Jaffer. He referred to members of the Indian Medical Department; and here I might mention that it is felt that vested interests—and I say quite plainly they are European vested interests—are still powerful so far as the defence forces are concerned, and that unless the influences that these vested interests are still able to exercise are stood up to, even our Defence Department will be overborne irrespective of the real needs of this country. And that is what is happening in regard to the Indian Medical Department; and I say this without qualification. I expect the Defence Member or Defence Secretary will repudiate what I say, but I know what I am talking about and I have inside information. There is a reciprocal process of back-scratching going on between senior Indian and British officers of the Medical Services. The Defence Department has not the foggiest notion of what shape its policy—if it has a policy—of reorganisation so far as the medical services are concerned is going to take. They cannot give us even the sketchiest out-

line of how they are going to lay down the reorganisation of the medical services. And yet—and I am afraid this is being justified or sought to be justified by the Defence Secretary—they are seeking, as Mr. Jaffer has said, to get rid of—I am not pleading for one community, perhaps all communities are involved—hundreds of medical men, men who have proved their worth in the most difficult and the hardest conditions—the conditions of battle. They are going to get rid of them without, as I say, knowing even remotely what their schemes of reorganisation *vis-à-vis* the medical services are going to be. My Honourable friend there will seek to tell us that these men are not being got rid of. I know that it was contemplated that they should be demobilised in March. I believe that as a result of certain intervention, that demobilisation has been merely postponed. Why, I want to ask the Defence Department, are they singling out their medical men who rendered them yeoman service at a time when they could not get enough men from civilian medical life in order to come forward and cater to the needs of the army, rendered them yeoman service and represented the lynch-pin of their medical services? Why are they treating them in a peculiarly step-motherly fashion? To begin with they are not allowing men who were 35 when they were commissioned—and they were commissioned only in 1941—to even apply for permanent commissions. They are the only department of the defence forces to which this restriction has been applied. I may also mention that they are all persons who are in regular and permanent military service, and in no other arm of the defence forces have men in permanent service had this age restriction imposed on them. There is no upper age limit; it has been waived with regard to all other military personnel. They have singled out their military medical men, and I want to know the reason. Some people suggest that they are being overborne by British interests, others suggest that it is perhaps being actuated by deliberate communalism. But whatever it is, if they go into the real facts of the case they will find that they are getting rid of these men, men who are today commanding hospitals, men who hold the highest professional and administrative appointments for no justifiable reason. And why are they getting rid of them? Because after having got rid of them they will find that they have no people of the Indian communities to fill senior administrative appointments and then they will be presented with this accomplished fact that in order to maintain the stability of their medical service they will have Europeans seconded to the Indian Medical Service. I say to the Defence Department that they are not aware of the move behind this. They have, as I said, imposed this gratuitous restriction with regard to age. Then as regards qualifications during the war they accepted licentiate, as graduates and commissioned them not only to the I.A.M.C. but to the I.M.S. And now they say they are only going to take in graduates. I am not pleading for any lowering of standards, but I would ask them to remember the special circumstances of the Indian Medical Department. Up to 1941 they all underwent a five-year course of recognised medical study. That course was coterminous with the M.B.B.S. course but they were not allowed to sit for the M.B.B.S. examination. In getting rid of them the Defence Department is ignoring the recommendations of the Bhoré Committee who said that the graduates produced during the war were graduates of the poorest type that they were rushed through in order to fill the deficiency with regard to medical graduates. The Bhoré Committee has said that licentiates who have proved their worth on the field of battle should be treated absolutely equally with graduates. Even this you are absolutely ignoring; you are ignoring the recommendations of your own committee appointed by the Government of India.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel (Bengal European): Is the Chair doing all this?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am pursuing my fault of addressing the Member through the Chair, a fault rather peculiar to me.

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony]

These persons, Sir, are the only persons who are not being allowed to defer European officers seconded to the Indian Army are being allowed to defer till October, but you are going to get rid of these men in spite of the fact that they are permanent military personnel. I say that it is a gross breach not only of a legal contract, but it is a breach of a moral obligation. You are not even going to give them the chance given to the Emergency European Commissioned Officers. On the other hand, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Jaffer, has pointed out, you are telling them in vacuo that some of you will revert and others will be demobilized. But revert to what? As I have already said, the Defence Secretary will not be able to give me the slightest inkling of the pattern of reorganization contemplated for the medical services. If you have not yet prepared your plan of reorganization, why are you singing out about eight hundred men for demobilization or reversion? As I have already mentioned, the Finance Department has strenuously objected to it. Here are men who have proved their worth, they have commanded officers, not only of all Indian communities but they have commanded Britishers, and yet you are going to turn them out either on the score of age or on the score of lack of qualifications.

There are two other matters to which I shall refer briefly before I resume my seat. They are with regard to the Indian Air Force and the Royal Indian Navy. I remember that this was rather a hardy annual so far as the Indian Air Force was concerned. We were told repeatedly that India has set herself the absurd target of having ten squadrons and the reason given, a reason which left completely unconvinced people like myself who had some inside knowledge of how selections were made, the reason why this enormous country had set itself a target of ten squadrons was because we could not get suitable material. I used to take the strongest exception to this. I told the Defence Secretary when they trotted out this completely unconvincing argument that even from my microscopic community because they could not get into the R I A F some three or four thousand went overseas and got into the Fighter Units of the Royal Air Force. And yet we used to be told that India could not get suitable material. I would ask the Defence Secretary to look into this matter and to take necessary steps not only for rapid Indianisation but for rapid expansion of the Indian Air Force. And so far as Navy is concerned, we are told that the Royal Navy is a silent service. R I N has emulated that tradition in one respect. It has been very silent, very silent indeed, as regards the process of Indianisation or lack of Indianisation. Even when we were members of the National Defence Council, it was impossible to elicit information as to how many Indian officers the Royal Indian Navy consisted of. I have good reason to believe that even now the overwhelming strength of the R I N consists of European officers. This is another aspect of Indianisation. I would ask the Defence Member to address himself to

Mr. G. P. Lawson (Bengal European) Mr Deputy President, Sir. My only reason for rising to intervene in this debate is to correct a balance which

4 P M I think is tipped in the wrong direction. I think that we have heard a good deal about faults in the Forces, about the 'unnecessary size of the Forces, and about abuses here and there. But what has not been said up to now, Sir, and what I think requires to be said is that the necessity for good, efficient and strong forces still remains.

My Honourable friend, Mr Sri Prakasa, has referred to his wish to be friends with everybody. He objects to the word 'enemy' and, Sir, knowing Mr Sri Prakasa it is very difficult to quarrel with him and his friendly and kindly nature. But, Sir, when you are speaking of refusing to countenance the word 'enemy' you must be a little bit more certain that other people feel quite the same way about you. A one-sided feeling of friendliness carried to excess may bring one up against very serious trouble. The friendly feeling

that Mr. Sri Prakasa has radiated in this House and which he has imported into his speeches, not only about other subjects but about the serious subject of Defence, has not so far led any one in this House to suggest, for instance, the repudiation of India's share in reparations, although I rather fancy that as a gesture of friendliness that might cut greater ice with the Japanese and the Germans.

But, Sir, let me return to the subject under discussion. It is rather over quarter of a century since I ceased to be a soldier and became a civilian, but the memory is still with me of how soon, from being a hero, one became a rather unwanted civilian. I suggest, Sir, that this debate, as far as it has gone, will do nothing to destroy that impression amongst those who have served us so well over the past seven or eight years. I would like to have heard a greater reference in the course of the speeches to the debt that we owe to these people, to these soldiers, sailors and airmen. I would like to have heard a greater reference to the sorrow with which we face the necessity for their demobilization. I have listened, Sir, to a Railway Budget. It becomes a virtue in the Railway Member to tell us how very few of the large war time railway staff he has found it necessary to demobilize. On the part of the Honourable the Defence Member that would not be a virtue but a vice. In other words, Sir, while we must do everything in our power to retain in the Railway services all the war time personnel irrespective of whether there is for them adequate employment, we must disperse and demobilize every single man in the Armed Forces that can be dispersed and demobilized. We, on this side, yield to no one in our wish for economy, but I do most sincerely hope that the general wish for economy will blind this House to the necessities of the situation. We have been magnificently served in the past war years by a magnificent Army whose traditions must be upheld and maintained. I agree with the Honourable speakers who have stressed the need for the best equipment and the best training. That must surely be maintained, and, Sir, that in these disturbed times means more to me than a pinch-beck economy. That is most important and I suggest to this House that it would be wise to bear that need in view rather than the need of saving a few rupees here and a few rupees there.

While I have made that statement I may be accused of living in a fool's paradise and wishing to spend money which the country has not got. That, Sir, is a point which I do admit must not be forgotten. There must in all conscience be careful and considered economy but not such an economy as will destroy the numbers necessary for the defence of this country, the best equipment and the best training that they can have. So where can we find this particular avenue of economy that we particularly want to find. My mind immediately flies to the Disposals Branch, the disposal of army equipment which is regrettably slow. I also think of the Claims Offices taking years and years to settle the claims of people whose property has been requisitioned. I know of property in Calcutta, industrial property, requisitioned during the war, which has now been evacuated by the forces but the claims for that property still remain unsettled. I know of amenities, electric light, water and so on, made available to the troops during the period of the war (an expensive amenity in many cases) the cost of which still remains unsettled a year or more after those troops have gone. And that, Sir, seem to me to point to a rather meticulous fear of spending more than may be absolutely necessary in clearing up the mess. It is a "penny-wise pound-foolish" policy, because the delays which are occurring in getting rid of all those disposals claims are necessitating the retention of personnel, of buildings, lands and the like far longer than is necessary. The expenses that the army are still incurring on account of requisitioned property are enormous. At the end of the last year I figured that the total rent of requisitioned property alone was something like as much as the total amount of money collected for Central

[Mr C. P. Lawson]
 excises before the war. It was a very big sum and it is these delays that are causing excessive expenditure. If these delays could be eliminated, if a little common sense and less meticulous accounting could be produced, there would, I think, be a large saving in general.

Now, Sir, it is of course an old story about G 11 Q with its forty pages out of the whole telephone book and I will not stress the point, but there is no doubt that these enormous administrative offices which have grown during the war must now be combed out and reduced. We shall doubtless hear from the War Member or the War Secretary as to what extent that is being carried out.

I do not want to waste any more time of the House and I will close after I have made two more points. First of all, in suggesting to this House for their serious consideration that they must not lose sight of the efficiency and the strength of the fighting forces, I must not forget their morale. The morale of these forces is as important as their training and as their equipment. I do not think that that morale will be inspired in the fighting forces by continual talk of cutting them down and of their misdemeanours.

I am impressed by an item appearing on page 3 of the Budget Estimates of expenditure on Defence Services. It is a very small item and perhaps I quote from para. 7 on page 3:

"Although it is hoped to maintain the scale of amenities for serving troops at the same level as for the past year, the welfare of the reserve man and his family will certainly suffer from the closing down of the Civil Liaison Organisation and welfare workers."

It was hoped to offset this to some extent by improving the staffs of District Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Boards, but at present this has not been possible because only four of the provinces have agreed to assist in the cost of this measure. The full cost is not considered a fair charge on central funds."

Once again we embrace a "penny-wise and pound-foolish" policy, because some provinces will not play, because possibly finance is tight, these services will not be replaced and once again the fighting man who has served us so well will consider that his job now is being relegated to the background. It seems to be a pity that this situation has to be reported in the budget and I sincerely hope that the Honourable the Defence Member will find some way of replacing these services which are due to the forces on which one day we in this House and the rest of the country may have to depend for their safety.

One other word about pay. It is true, as my Honourable friend Mr Anthony said, that questions of pay will loom very important in the matter of the future of the army and it is to my mind rather unfortunate that the decisions regarding the pay of the army are to be held up until the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission are known. It seems to me that it might be a good thing now that the Finance Member has been forced to admit that he has already received an advance copy of the Pay Commission's Report that the Postwar Committee that was dealing with the question of army pay should now make an effort to finalise its conclusions. It would be, I think, very unfortunate if it became necessary for this Committee to start its work all again *ab initio*, when the Central Pay Commission's report is produced.

I will conclude my very brief intervention with another reminder to this House. At the moment when peace reigns we may find it possible to forget and forget with pleasure the horrors which were endured in the last seven years. Particularly in the country of my birth we are apt to forget a little too quickly and in the years that follow we disarm and in fact any talk of defence subjects becomes anathema. On two occasions in my lifetime we have suffered for that attitude and our suffering will continue for many years to come. I sincerely hope that this country, and in particular this House, will not make the same mistake.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, we have heard with rapt attention the speeches which have been made by the Honourable Members of this House, and noted the points made by them. I shall try and give replies to as many of them as possible. If I am not able to reply to all the points that have been raised now it is not because of our want of will but because of the want of time.

Sir, my honourable friend began with the complaint that the Defence Budget was non-votable. Sir, that is a constitutional disability which we cannot help. I am sure the National Government would be the first to desire that the Defence Budget should be placed on the same footing as the Budgets of the other Departments of the Government of India. I am sure, Sir, that in a short time, in any case not later than fifteen months when the constitution of this country will be overhauled and India will become a complete master of herself, the Defence Budget will be votable just like the other Budgets of the Government of India.

Sir, reference was made to the heavy expenditure which was incurred on troops overseas, particularly on the Indian contingent in Japan. The House is aware that these troops were sent before the assumption of office by the present Government. The Government have recently considered the whole position and have come to the decision that the Indian contingent from Japan should be withdrawn as soon as can be arranged with the other Members of the Commonwealth occupying countries who have their forces in Japan.

I may briefly mention here the policy which this Government has now adopted in respect of troops stationed overseas. That policy is to withdraw all Indian troops overseas as soon as possible. In view, however, of the commitments of the Government of India during the last war and problems arising out of post-war conditions in neighbouring countries which were overrun and disorganised, we are prepared to allow our troops to remain where they are required for a certain agreed period provided that the countries concerned do not object and provided further that our troops will not in any case be used to suppress any national movement. In particular, we have taken a decision with regard to the various stations at which these troops have been stationed for some time. That decision is to withdraw the Indian troops from Egypt and Palestine immediately. We have agreed to retain our troops in Iraq for the specified object of guarding the stores at Shaba Base. I have mentioned several times to the House that during the process of war huge stocks of stores came to be accumulated in this theatre, and before they are disposed of in an orderly manner they have got to be guarded and looked after. This is the only object for which a small force of Indian troops will be retained in Iraq. We have decided to withdraw the whole Indian occupational force from Japan as I just now mentioned. We have also decided to withdraw our troops in Burma and Malaya after consultation with all parties concerned and at their convenience.

Reference was made to the bloated staff in General Headquarters. I have got with me here a graph

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division, Non-Muhammadian): May I know one thing? What is the amount of expenditure in keeping the army overseas?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: It is not readily available but I will be prepared to give it to the Honourable Member later, if he requires. But the point is this that the expenditure on troops which are outside the borders of India is borne by His Majesty's Government except in Japan where the Government of India agreed to bear the expenditure because the force was stationed there as a mark of the growth of India to nationhood and as a mark of her prestige as being one of the major Allied Powers in the last war. Coming to General Headquarters, on the 1st of January 1946 the number of officers was somewhere about 2,900.

[Mr. G. S. Bhalja]

On the 1st of January 1947 it came down to less than 1,400. The target fixed for reduction by the 1st of October is less than 500. I would like to mention here the purpose for which the staff is yet of such large size. The reasons are that we are yet not on a peacetime basis. They have to perform various important duties among which I would mention planning for the size and composition of the post-war Armed Forces, planning for nationalisation, planning scales of accommodation, reorganisation of the Military Engineering Services, disposal of surplus stocks, maintenance or withdrawal of Indian troops overseas, etc., etc.

I shall next refer to the complaint made by my honourable friends Messrs. Jaffer and Anthony with regard to the Indian Medical Department. I would say straightaway that the decision of the Government is to have in the future one military medical service, namely the Indian Army Medical Corps. This service will consist exclusively of Indian officers, who are graduates. It is not proposed to grant one single commission to a non-Indian in the service. The position of the Indian Medical Department is however peculiar.

My friend there complained that we were going to throw out of employment a large number of men who had done splendid work during the war. It is not quite as he puts it. I acknowledge on behalf of the Defence Department the very excellent work which the members of the Indian Medical Department did during the war. But the process of demobilisation is painful as has been pointed out. It is not that we wish to throw people out of employment willingly. We have to resort to demobilisation because we cannot possibly maintain two million men in arms in peace time. This I.M.D. consisted of two cadres the British cadre and the Indian cadre. The British cadre comprised mostly Anglo Indians and the Indian cadre comprised other Indians. They were not graduates. They were licentiates. They were educated at the expense of Government. They were taken in service when young and those who could qualify for the degree were given the opportunity to do so. During the war, owing to the vast increase in the personnel of the armed forces and the necessity of appointing medical officers to look after them, it was found necessary to give commissions to licentiates as well. It was made clear from the very beginning that these temporary commissions were only for the duration of the war and that the officers concerned would revert to their original status when their services as officers were no longer required. I do not propose to go into details but I should like to point out that there is really no cause for complaint on the part of this particular class of officers who were given temporary Commissions during the war. They will be given the option to revert to their old status. By old status I mean the status which they would have been able to reach had the war not come on at all. A shadow register was maintained and promotions will be granted to these officers as if there had been no war. A few of them have been given the opportunity to go outside India to qualify themselves for the graduates course and thus make themselves eligible for the grant of permanent commissions and actually 33 of them who are graduates have already been selected for the grant of permanent commissions and their names have been entered in the register which has been kept for that purpose. I submit that these officers have no genuine grievance. A few have had the advantage of getting regular commissions in the I.A.M.C. which they would never have got if it was not for the war. The remainder have enjoyed the fortunes of war for three or four years and they have now to revert to the status which they would have had there been no war. A somewhat beneficial revised pension and gratuity scale has been worked out and those reverting to their original status can make use of it if they found it more advantageous than to continue in service.

I shall now deal with the large expenditure which has been the subject of comment from all quarters of the House. Sir, Government are at one with the House in this matter. We wish to see the Defence Expenditure reduced to a figure which we can afford. It does not seem to be realised that this is the legacy of the war that we cannot suddenly disband the vast number of personnel who joined the armed forces and leave them in the streets.

The budget estimates are based on the average strength of the three services. The average strength of the army has been taken at 3,84,945, of the Royal Indian Navy at 12,791 and of the Air Forces at 26,320. It is expected that the army will have been demobilized to about 50,000 personnel by the 1st of April 1947. According to present calculations, and if unforeseen situations do not arise, it is anticipated that the strength will be of the order of 300,000 by the end of December 1947. It is not possible to indicate the exact strength because we have not yet been able to reach a decision as regards the size and composition of the future armed forces. One Honourable Member complained of the delay in coming to a decision on this important and vital issue. Sir, the previous Government rightly kept over this matter for decision by a popular Government inasmuch as the size of the Defence Budget was inevitably bound to take a lion's share in the budget of this country. After the new Government assumed office, they grappled with this problem. They have reached tentative conclusions. The questions now for consideration are what is the size of the Defence Budget which the country can afford? What is going to be the role of the future armed forces? I do not propose to go into the ethics of maintaining armed forces. I would only say that whatever our ideology may be—we would like the armed forces to be removed altogether if all the other countries of the world did the same—but as practical men, as wise men, as men on whom the responsibility for the defence of the country lies, it would be foolish, it would be imprudent on our part to wildly cut down the forces to a figure which would put us at the mercy of any invader.

Our demobilisation machinery is working at full speed. In order to appreciate the complicated machinery of demobilisation, I shall briefly indicate the process. In the main, only units are demobilised as a whole. When a unit becomes available disbandment orders are issued and a date is given by which disbandment has to be completed. The units available for disbandment depend on a number of factors, one of which is whether it is able to move from its location without relief and if relief is required the process of moving another unit to take over has to be considered. This necessitates a large scale shuffle of units and some times involves the movement of units back to India from overseas. If units have to be moved from overseas, the availability of shipping has to be considered, which is a very important factor at the present moment. When a unit receives its orders for disbandment, it arranges to dispose of its vehicles and stores. It despatches to the Regimental Centre men who have volunteered for pre-release training. It has then to move as a unit to its regimental centre. This involves the provision of special trains. I may mention for the information of Honourable Members that in the month of January some 500 special trains had been run to move troops in this country. Having arrived at the centre, the troops are called forward in batches for documentation and withdrawal of personal equipment, etc. and finally they are despatched to their places of residence.

While we shall do everything that is possible to speed up demobilisation, I should like to utter a word of warning. India is passing through a critical period at the present moment. The insensate and fratricidal communal outbreaks that are going on in some parts of the country will fill every Indian's

[Mr. G. S. Bhalla:]
heart with sadness. If these disturbances continue and the situation does not return to normal, the demobilisation programme will have to slow down.

Then, again, Sir, another important factor is the programme of disposals. This programme should proceed in accordance with plan. The House is aware that the Defence Department are responsible for the custody and guarding of huge quantities of surplus stores, which ties down a considerable number of armed forces personnel. The army is also responsible for the storage and guarding of American surpluses, which have been taken over by the Government of India.

I shall mention here that we shall have to retrench a large number of temporary personnel in the armed forces including temporary labour, which, for ordnance depots alone, accounts for a sum of Rs 6 crores. The labour in depots, factories, arsenals, etc. will also have to be retrenched. Similarly, retrenchment has to be carried out in the Military Accounts Department, which costs, roughly, Rs 5 crores. I am sure the House will support the Department in resisting all demands for slowing down retrenchment.

As against the possibility of speeding up demobilisation must be set the factors which I have just mentioned. I should also like to mention that provision has been made in the Budget for the cost of acquisition of land on the valuation of the requisitioned property on the date of the notice of requisition. The House is already seized by the report of the Select Committee on the Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Bill. It contains a recommendation that the market value to be assessed for payment of compensation should be as on the date of the notice of acquisition and not requisition. This will involve additional expenditure to the extent of several crores, for which no provision has been made in the Budget.

A reference has been made to the Post-war Pay Committee. The recommendations of this Committee will have to be correlated to those of the Civil Pay Commission and might involve some increase in expenditure, the extent of which it is not possible to foresee at the moment and for which consequently no provision has been made in the Budget. My Honourable friend mentioned that the Post-war Pay Committee should not have to redo its work now. That is precisely the point. The Committee has got its tentative conclusions ready and its job now is to correlate those conclusions to the conclusions which have been reached by the Civil Pay Commission.

My Honourable friend Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia made a reference to a pleasure trip of a high officer. I have no knowledge of the facts, but I can assure him that we shall look into the matter and if the facts alleged are true, we will consider what action should be taken. I do not wish to take more time of the House.

My Honourable friend the mover of the eul motion, made a reference to the necessity of building up the national forces of India. The Defence Department is at one with him in this matter. The very object of appointing the Nationalisation Committee is to speed up nationalisation. In fact, Government are now considering what revision of the terms of this Committee is necessary as a result of the declaration made by His Majesty's Government recently. But, as I said the other day, the terms already lay down that they should make recommendations for the replacement of non-Indian personnel by Indian personnel in the shortest possible time. Soon after his assumption of office, the Honourable the Defence Member broadcasted a message to the armed forces in which he laid considerable emphasis on the necessity of these forces considering themselves as the national forces of India. Thereafter the Honourable the Vice-President of the Interim Government and the Honourable the Defence Member made an appeal to the youth of India to

come forward in larger numbers to serve their country in the national forces. I shall only add that I hope the House will give every encouragement to the armed forces personnel. I particularly endorse the appeal which has been made by my Honourable friend Mr. Anthony to keep out political considerations from the armed forces and hope that it will find ready response from all quarters. The Army is the only neutral force in the country and it is the only force which has proved impartial in the terrible disturbances which we are witnessing. As I said the other day, we have received reports of nothing but praise and admiration for the manner in which these troops have behaved themselves and I am confident they will continue to maintain their fine traditions in the future.

Mr. Deputy President: Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Defence Member). Sir, I would like to speak for ten minutes only, if the Honourable Member agrees.

Mr. Deputy President: Will the Honourable Member (Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri) speak for ten minutes only as the Defence Member also wishes to speak?

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley. Non-Muhammadan): I will take only five minutes. I also wish to be included amongst those who have spoken on this momentous motion, which was moved by my gallant friend Mr. Sri Prakasa who claimed to belong to feudal class. May I remind the Honourable Member that feudal lords, whatever may be the pleasures in which they indulged themselves, were distinguished for their valour and skill in war? And may I also hope that, given the opportunity in independent India, my Honourable friend will be able to eclipse his predecessors?

Sir, in my speech I shall be merely echoing some of the questions which are uppermost in the minds of our people at the present moment. We are going to be independent very soon. At this juncture, may we know what is the arrangement between the British Government and the Indians who are now in Government? Are we going to be protected in our country by the British Navy for some time more or are we going to depend on the Royal Air Force for our protection? Are we going to be on our knees and ask the British army to remain here for a little while more so that we may gather the strength to defend ourselves in the meantime? These are the questions which are uppermost in the mind of every Indian today. Sir, the present Viceroy will soon go and the Vicerealty will soon disappear. I should like to know whether the present Commander-in-Chief also will disappear at the same time. I should like to know if there is any Indian in the mind of our government who can occupy the position of the Commander-in-Chief. Sir, may I remind the House that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose came from a province which was supposed to be non-martial, they had no army worth the name, they had no arms, even lathis were banned in that province. Yet we saw that Netaji commanded a vast force of Azad Hind Fauj, which but for the unfortunate circumstances which had beset them, would have written the history of India in quite a different manner.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Assam would have been free long ago.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: My Honourable friend reminds me of Assam even if I want to forget it. The other provinces of India are almost indifferent to the fortune of Assam. I may remind my Honourable friend that there was an Assam regiment consisting of a thousand people which fought the enemy—unfortunately they were our own National Army men—on the Naga hills and 900 out of 1,000 were cut to pieces. That shows with what bravery they fought. They know how to fight, they did not know how to run away like some people. That is the difficulty. Jokes apart, I should

[Sreejot Robini Kumar Chaudhuri]
like to make some suggestions to the Honourable the Defence Member for his considerations. The first thing that I would urge upon him is to employ as many men as possible of the Indian National Army. There should not be any ban against their appointment. There might have been some unfortunate epithets flung at them by the previous government, but no such feeling should be entertained by the present Government as it is the Government of the Indian people. I should also suggest that none of the emergency commissioned officers should be discharged. If anybody is not up to the mark, further training should be given to them. No attempt should be made to get the ex-servicemen back to their civilian vocations. They should all be absorbed in the army. We shall need the services of all these ex-service men if the British army withdraws. I would also suggest there should be some more training centres in different provinces for military training, because wherever military training centres exist, military spirit is infused into the mind of the youths of the place. I would point out, Sir, that in Assam, which is so much derided, there is excellent material for the army. If there are training centres, I am sure, Assam will provide an excellent field for recruitment of young men for the army and for training in guerilla warfare. They can be better used as units for guerilla warfare. After all in modern warfare, guerilla warfare is an excellent method of defending one's country.

Another point which I should like to bring to the notice of the Honourable Defence Member is this. When a unit is moved, the unit officers get only warrant, but when somebody in G H Q moves, he gets three first class. I suggest there should be no distinction and no such extravagance in case of G H Q.

The last but not the least point that I wish to make is this, that the Honourable Defence Member and Honourable Home Member should consider the advisability of immediately repealing the Arms Act. In these days young men get startled even at the sound of a gun. In our boyhood days, young men were more accustomed to use of arms than now. Distrust has intervened between our generation and the present generation and the present day boys will not make good soldiers unless the Arms Act is repealed immediately and military training is given to the boys. Every man should be allowed to use arms as he likes. The fear that there will be civil war or there will be riots or there will be more suicides should not deter the Government from repealing the Arms Act.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, before you call upon the Defence Member to reply to the debate, I should like to tell him that we expect a reply to the question of the Ordnance Officers, Civilians which was raised by Mr Jaffer. The Defence Secretary did not give any reply to the points raised by some Honourable Members. Notice have been served on some Ordnance officers. I would request the Honourable Defence Member to give a reply with regard to that point.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Sir, before I reply to the points raised by the Honourable Members, I should like to say that I owe an apology to this House for my unavoidable absence. I may assure the House that it was not at all intentional. I had to go to the Punjab in order to see for myself whether the military force is enough to cope with the situation in the Punjab.

(At this stage, Mr. President resumed the Chair.)

I returned this afternoon and as soon as I was told that the Cut Motion about the Budget has come up, I rushed to the House. I am sorry I was not in time to listen to the remarks which the Member had to make. Sir, most of the

points have been replied to by the Defence Secretary and I do not wish to repeat. I have got only one or two points to reply to. The first one is about the criticism that has been raised regarding the notice of discharge served on the Civilian Ordnance Officers. Criticism has also been made that the recommendations of the Nationalisation Committee have been turned down. I may assure the House that nothing of the sort has been done. The House will remember that I was responsible for the appointment of this Nationalisation Committee with the object of replacing the British officers that have been there in the armed forces for such a long time. The terms of reference of this Nationalisation Committee are very well known to all Honourable Members of the House. I stand here to give the assurance to the House and through this House to the country that it will be the earnest desire of the Government that the recommendations of the Nationalisation Committee should be given effect to. Now, Sir, regarding this particular matter, a satisfactory reply has been given by the Defence Secretary on the Adjournment Motion that was sought to be moved on the subject. The position is this. 135 officers have been served with notice. There are altogether 1,600 officers in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps. We require only 100 civilian officers and 600 military officers, as the post-war strength of this cadre is not going to be more than 700 officers. For 600 military officers we have 706 Indian military officers and for 100 civilian officers we have got even after dispensing with the services of 135 officers, about 800 civilian officers. Now, Sir, regarding the Nationalisation Committee recommendations, it is true that they have recommended that the notices that have been served on these 135 officers should be withdrawn. We have really not turned down the recommendations of the Nationalisation Committee. But what we have said is this. The recommendations of the Nationalisation Committee were received about a fortnight ago. We had no time to examine them. It is the view of the Defence Department that these 135 officers who had joined only in 1945 have to go in any case. It does not mean that we wish to keep the British officers who are already there to the extent of six hundred, but what it means is that we have not been able to examine the recommendations of the Nationalisation Committee, and it will take us some time before we can select the Indian officers who will be qualified to take the place of the British officers that are serving in that cadre. Now, Sir, I hope the House will be satisfied that as far as the Defence Department is concerned we are perfectly prepared to give effect to the recommendations of the Nationalisation Committee, and it is not at all my desire nor the desire of the Interim Government to do anything to prolong the stay of British officers who are no longer necessary.

There is another point which was raised by my Honourable friend Sardar Surjit Singh about the dismissal of A O C-in-C Sir Roderick Carr. I do not want to go into this question. All that I would like to say is that he has not been dismissed at all but I am responsible for dispensing with his services in consultation with the Commander-in-Chief. Whether he had pro-Indian views or he was in favour of nationalisation is a different matter about which I do not know; but I may inform this House that to nationalise the forces is not the work of the A O C-in-C but it rests now with the Defence Member and, if I may say so, with the Interim Government. I will say in this connection that whether the A O C is A, B or C it does not matter. It is not the question of a particular officer; it is a question of the policy of the Government of India, and that policy is to nationalise all the armed forces. And in this connection I must say that I have been receiving the fullest possible cooperation from the Commander-in-Chief.

The next question that was raised was in connection with the pay of the armed forces personnel. I think this question was again raised by my Honourable friend Sardar Surjit Singh that the technical staff of the air forces

[Sardar Baldev Singh]

should be paid an adequate salary. It is the desire of the Defence Department to pay as best salaries as possible, but the House will agree with me that it is not possible for Government to pay the high salaries that people are getting in industries. As you know, Sir, on account of the peculiar conditions that exist in the world today and in this country the industrialists are in a position to pay much higher salaries and no Government—if I may say so—can afford to pay their services as high salaries as the industrialists can. I may here again stress the point that it is the desire of the Government of India to pay the defence services as good salaries as is possible or as we can afford. In this connection, as has already been pointed out by the Defence Secretary, a Pay Committee has been appointed and they have thoroughly examined the matter and their recommendations will be considered along with the recommendations of the Pay Commission which will come up before Government shortly.

My Honourable friend Mr. Lawson stressed a very important point about the armed forces. He rightly said that the armed forces of India have made a name in the world. I am sure the House will agree that whatever may have been our political differences in the past there is no doubt that the armed forces of this country have made a name in the whole world. We are proud of our armed forces and I wish to assure the House that it is the desire of Government to maintain the forces at a high level of efficiency. It is our earnest desire that we want to reduce the expenditure to the minimum possible but in reducing the expenditure I can assure the House that the efficiency of the armed forces will not be ignored. In this connection I will again mention that although we want our armies to be very efficient to be well equipped and to be of the same standard as the armies of other parts of the world, it is not as has been made clear, our intention to use them for aggressive purposes, but we want to use them to defend the honour and prestige of this country.

Mr. President: Honourable Members will remember that on the first day allotted for Demands for Grants I preferred to follow the Parliamentary practice and straightaway read out those demands under which cut motions had been tabled, as all the Demands had already been recommended by the Governor General. Now, I propose to make a further change and instead of putting each demand before the House separately, I propose—as in the case of uncontested clauses of a Bill—to put all the demands collectively to the House. I may draw attention to the fact that this year in the Order Paper containing the list of demands the particular amount against each demand has been entered separately, which was not the practice during previous years. So Honourable Members have now got with them the serial number of the demand, the head of the demand and also the amount of the demand. So, I propose to put all these demands together and the formula will be slightly differently worded.

Shri Sri Prakasa: If we want to throw out a demand what should we do?

Mr. President: If any particular demand is objected to I will put it separately. May I know if any demand is going to be opposed?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Yes, Sir demand no. 30.

Mr. President: I shall put that separately if the Honourable Member so desires.

The question is

“That the separate sums not exceeding the sums shown in the third column of the Order Paper except the sum shown against Demand No. 30, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1948, in respect of corresponding demands entered in the second column thereof.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 30—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES

Mr. President: The question is

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 88,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges' "

The motion was adopted

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) May I suggest, Sir, that in view of this procedure this list of Demands will form a part of the proceedings of this House

Mr. President: So far as the proceedings go, each Demand will be printed separately

[As directed by the Honourable the President the Motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Assembly are reproduced below—*Ed of Debates*]

DEMAND NO. 1—CUSTOMS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 1,19,81,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Customs' "

DEMAND NO. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE AND SALT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 4,00,99,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Central Excise and Salt' "

DEMAND NO. 3—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 1,72,07,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

DEMAND NO. 4—OPIMUM

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 87,69,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Opium' "

DEMAND NO. 5—PROVINCIAL EXCISE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 4,19,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Provincial Excise' "

DEMAND NO. 6—STAMPS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 72,65,000, be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Stamps' "

DEMAND NO. 7—FOREST

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 31,11,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Forest' "

DEMAND NO. 8—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS—MET FROM REVENUE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,43,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation (including working expenses), Embankment and Drainage works—met from Revenue'."

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DEMAND No. 9—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,81,25,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including working expenses).'"

DEMAND No. 10—INTEREST ON DEBT AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,67,65,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and Other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

DEMAND No. 11—CABINET

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,60,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Cabinet'."

DEMAND No. 12—COUNCIL OF STATE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Council of State'."

DEMAND No. 13—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,46,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

DEMAND No. 14—CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,43,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Constituent Assembly'."

DEMAND No. 15—HOME DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,55,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Home Department'."

DEMAND No. 16—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,58,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 17—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,26,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Legislative Department'."

DEMAND No. 18—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 28,43,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Education'."

DEMAND No. 19—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,27,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Agriculture'."

DEMAND No. 20—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,10,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Health'."

DEMAND No. 21—DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,57,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Commonwealth Relations'."

DEMAND No. 22—FINANCE DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,96,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

DEMAND No. 23—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,89,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

DEMAND No. 24—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,06,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

DEMAND No. 25—DEPARTMENT OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,26,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Works, Mines and Power'."

DEMAND No. 26—DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,07,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Communications'."

DEMAND No. 27—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,53,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Transport'."

DEMAND No. 28—FOOD DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,82,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Food Department'."

DEMAND No. 29—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,13,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'."

DEMAND No. 30—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 88,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

DEMAND No. 31—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 99,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries'."

DEMAND No. 32—AUDIT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,88,72,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Audit'."

DEMAND No 33—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

DEMAND No 34—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,39,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

DEMAND No 35—POLICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,37,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Police'."

DEMAND No 36—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,68,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

DEMAND No 37—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,53,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

DEMAND No 38—SURVEY OF INDIA

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 81,07,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

DEMAND No 39—BOTANICAL SURVEY

"That a sum

charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending

DEMAND No 40—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

not exceeding Rs. 5,40,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

DEMAND No. 41—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,57,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

DEMAND No 42—MINES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,87,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Mines'."

DEMAND No. 43—ARCHAEOLOGY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,30,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Archaeology'."

DEMAND No 44—METEOROLOGY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 72,31,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

DEMAND No 45—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,95,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Other Scientific Departments'."

DEMAND No. 46—EDUCATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 90,78,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Education'."

DEMAND No. 47—MEDICAL SERVICES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 38,35,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

DEMAND No. 48—PUBLIC HEALTH

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,90,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948 in respect of 'Public Health'."

DEMAND No. 49—AGRICULTURE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,43,52,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

DEMAND No. 50—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,95,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

DEMAND No. 51—INDUSTRIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 43,62,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Industries'."

DEMAND No. 52—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATION SERVICE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 45,91,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Overseas Communication Service'."

DEMAND No. 53—AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,21,81,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Aviation'."

DEMAND No. 54—BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,68,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 55—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,34,51,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Department of Industries and Supplies'."

DEMAND No. 56—EMIGRATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,33,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Emigration'."

DEMAND No. 57—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,68,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

DEMAND No. 58—CENSUS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,55,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Census'."

DEMAND No 59—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 3,96,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

DEMAND No 60—INDIAN DAIRY DEPARTMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 15,37,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

DEMAND No 61—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 48,73,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

DEMAND No. 62—CURRENCY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 71,27,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Currency'."

DEMAND No 63—MINT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 1,05,05,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Mint'."

DEMAND No 64—CIVIL WORKS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 5,59,61,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

DEMAND No 65—CENTRAL ROAD FUND

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 3,12,00,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Central Road Fund'."

DEMAND No 66—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 1,32,82,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

DEMAND No 67—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 84,80,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1948 in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

DEMAND No 68—MISCELLANEOUS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,80,59,300 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948 in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

DEMAND No 69—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 80,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

DEMAND No 70—RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 6,95,30,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Resettlement and Development'."

DEMAND No 71—CIVIL DEFENCE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 1,50,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

DEMAND No 72—DELHI

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,33,79,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Delhi'."

DEMAND No 73—AJMER-MERWARA

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 54,77,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

DEMAND No 74—PANTH PIPLODA

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 21,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Panth Piploa'."

DEMAND No 75—ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 75,40,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Andaman and Nicobar Islands'."

DEMAND No 76—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SALT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 68,60,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Salt'."

DEMAND No 77—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FORESTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 44,76,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Forests'."

DEMAND No 78—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON THE SECURITY PRINTING PRESS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 22,11,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on the Security-Printing Press'."

DEMAND No 79—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 5,43,29,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND No 80—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 1,000, be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (not met from Revenue)'."

DEMAND No 81—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 7,04,15,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Industrial Development'."

DEMAND No 82—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 3,82,65,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

DEMAND No 83—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 13,46,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No 84—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MINTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs 1,53,15,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Mints'."

DEMAND No. 85—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,61,80,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

DEMAND No. 86—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,87,85,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Works'."

DEMAND No. 87—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

DEMAND No. 88—PAYMENTS TO RETRENCHED PERSONNEL

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,88,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Payments to Retrenched Personnel'."

DEMAND No. 89—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF STATE TRADING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading'."

DEMAND No. 90—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 54,20,07,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Development'."

DEMAND No. 91—INTEREST-FREE AND INTEREST-BEARING ADVANCES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,37,28,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1948, in respect of 'Interest-free and Interest-bearing Advances'."

The Assembly then adjourned Till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 17th March, 1947.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 17th March 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Mr. H. G. Russell, O.B.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

TUITION FEES IN SCHOOLS IN NEW DELHI ON INCOME-TAX BASIS.

†889. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in New Delhi guardians of school students are required to disclose their income (on income-tax basis), while filling up forms at the time of admission of their children or wards into schools;

(b) whether Government are aware that tuition fees are assessed according to the level of income of the guardians, and

(c) the reasons therefor, and whether Government propose to consider the question of revising this practice?

آزیدمل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (اے) ہاں

(بی) ہاں

(سی) یہ پنجاب ایجوکیشن کوڈ کا قاعدہ ہے کہ جو دہائی پر لکایا گیا۔ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا آجکل اس بات پر سوچ بچار کر رہی ہے کہ دہائی کے لئے ایک نیا کوڈ تیار کرے نیا کوڈ تیار کرتے ہوئے اس معاملہ پر بھی نظر ڈالی جائیگی۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is in accordance with the provisions of the existing Punjab Education Code which applies to Delhi. The question of preparation of a new code is under active consideration of the Government of India; the position will be reviewed in that connection.

مسٹر سسکا سکھار سانیال: سرکار کے اس خیال سے پڑھنے والے لوگوں کے دلوں

میں الگ الگ حصہ پیدا ہوتا ہے۔

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Does this not create an idea of discrimination?

† This question was postponed from the 12th March, 1947, and given precedence over all questions of the day.

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آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ایسا خیال نہیں ہوتا ہے لیکن جیسا کہ میں ابھی
آنریبل ممبر کی توجہ دلا چکا ہوں کہ نیا کوڈ تیار کر دیا ہے اور اسکا خیال کیا جائیگا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No such idea is created. The Honourable Member has already been informed that the code is being revised and this will be borne in mind.

مسٹر سسکا سکھر سنگھ : نیا کوڈ بنانے کے بارے میں کئی آدمیوں سے پوچھا گیا ہے۔

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: How many persons have been consulted regarding preparation of the new Code?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس بارے میں ابھی کچھ نہیں کہا جا سکتا ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Nothing can be said about this just now.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DOLLAR POOL.

958. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if Government have received full particulars about (i) the Dollar Pool, (ii) its operation during the period that it was instituted, (iii) India's contribution thereto and (iv) the use which India was permitted to make of dollars from it?

(b) If so, do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing these particulars?

(c) If the reply to part (a) is in the negative, have Government made any effort to get these particulars and, if so, what were those efforts and what is the result?

(d) Has Government's attention been drawn to a note in the "Statesman" of 15th January 1947, giving some figures indicating the shares of India and the United Kingdom in the accumulated gold and dollar reserve?

(e) Are these figures correct?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a), (b) and (c). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to paragraph 29 of the Finance Member's Budget speech for 1946-47, the press communiqué on the subject which was issued on the 7th October 1946 and placed on the table of the House on the 8th November 1946 and to my reply to the Honourable Member's starred question No. 77 on the 6th February 1947.

(d) and (e). Government have seen the note referred to. As I have repeatedly explained there are no shares in the Dollar Pool. The gold and dollar reserves of the United Kingdom, according to a British White Paper, were estimated to stand at £453 millions, at the end of October 1945. India's balance of payments with the hard currency countries between September 1939 and September 1946 was favourable to the extent of Rs. 93 crores.

Mr. Yusuf Abdooli Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member what was the balance in the dollar pool and whether we are to receive any dollars in sterling?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: As I have said before the question of the dollar pool is one of the matters that has to be settled at the time of settling the sterling balances.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the present Government satisfied themselves whether the statement made by Sir Archibald Rowlands is correct or not that India has gained much more from the Empire Dollar Pool than it has lost?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: That is a matter of opinion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has he ascertained the fact whether it is true or not? If India is losing through the Empire Dollar Pool then we cannot follow that particular policy followed by the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: All that I can say is that since I have taken over India is not losing.

Mr. Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: In reply to part (a) what are the balances in the dollar pool?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I must have notice of that question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: As the sterling balance negotiations are being shifted to a further date, and as the Honourable Member assured us that India will get out of the Empire Dollar Pool as early as possible, may we know whether some active effort may not be made in order to terminate India's participation in the dollar pool?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Active effort is being made to have a final settlement of the sterling balances.

DISSOLUTION OF THE DOLLAR POOL.

959. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if Government have had any correspondence with His Majesty's Government regarding the dissolution of the Dollar Pool and, if so, from which date the Dollar Pool will stand dissolved, and what is the arrangement for the distribution of the assets remaining in the Dollar Pool?

(b) What would be the position of amounts due to India in excess of what may come to her in the final distribution of the Dollar Pool, and has a guarantee been asked from His Majesty's Government to replace these dollars in due course? If so, in what terms?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) and (b). Government have had no correspondence with H. M. G. on the subject. India's withdrawal from the Dollar Pool is linked with the settlement of the question of the sterling balances and the Honourable Member's questions can not be answered till such a settlement takes place.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, as the Empire Dollar Pool was started during the war for a specific war purpose of the Allied Governments, and as the war has finished and we will be in the third year of the termination of the war hereafter, whether its continuance, apart from the sterling balance, is desirable; and if so, whether it could not be settled apart from the general question of sterling balances and the international monetary fund?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: As I said just now, the existence of the dollar pool at present is not detrimental to the interests of India.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Will the Honourable the Finance Member agree that in any case the dollar pool is to be wound up on the 15th July and that the International Monetary Fund has been operating since the 1st March? Having regard to those circumstances, the point made by Mr. Subedar does not arise.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I understand that is the position.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If that is so, may I know whether at the present moment we are not contributing in the dollar pool and whether the dollars coming to India by the American purchase of hides and other articles are not going to the pool, and whether they will not continue to go to the pool after the first June?

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[17TH MAR. 1947]

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I would like to have notice of that question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How does the question of the dollar pool connect with the sterling balances?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Because of the question of the multilaterally convertible currency.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are not the dollars acquired by India by her favourable trade balance? Do they then not belong to India and not to the sterling balances?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: There is no share fixed for any participants of the dollar pool.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not an independent organisation in which we have a share and the balance to our credit can be drawn by India without reference to the sterling balances?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: No member of the dollar pool has a fixed share in it otherwise it would not be a pool.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that Sir Archibald Rowlands said in this House that a particular quantity of dollars was set apart for India in that particular area, may I ask the Honourable Member whether any quantity of dollars is set apart during this year for the use of Indian manufacturers and others from out of this Empire Dollar Pool?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, all that I can say is that we can get all the dollars we want, there is no scarcity in that respect.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if it is the Honourable Member's intention, inasmuch as he says that the Dollar Pool is linked with the sterling balances, that he is prepared to accept sterling for dollar?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: It is not linked up in that way. It is linked up with the question of the settlement of the sterling balances and the settlement of the sterling balances means that there must be available to India some multilaterally-convertible currency. That is why it is linked up.

PAYMENTS BY THE BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT TO GRAMOPHONE COMPANIES.

960. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state how much royalty, goodwill or other payment is being made by Government to the Gramophone Companies?

(b) To which companies are these amounts being paid, how much to each and at what rate?

(c) What steps have Government taken in order to avoid the payment of such royalty in future?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) For the Calendar year 1946 Rs. 51,815 were paid to the Phonographic Performance (Eastern) Ltd. and the National Gramophone Record Manufacturing Co., Ltd. This payment relates to copyright in gramophone records broadcast by All India Radio from all its stations. All India Radio make no payments other than for royalties.

(b) Gramophone records are obtained from Phonographic Performance (Eastern) Ltd., and the National Gramophone Record Manufacturing Co., Ltd. A list of the members of the Phonographic Performance (Eastern) Ltd., is placed on the table of the House. Gramophone records are also obtained from individual producers. It is not in the public interest to disclose information about the details of the payments made to each concern.

(c) Government cannot escape these payments so long as gramophone records have to be used for purposes of broadcast but if the Honourable Member has any suggestions to make, Government would be prepared to examine them.

List of members of the Phonographic Performance (Eastern) Ltd.

1. Phonographic Performance (Eastern) Ltd.
2. The Gramophone Company, Limited.
3. The Twin Record Co., Ltd.
4. The Columbia Gramophone Co., Ltd.
5. The Hindustan Musical Products, Ltd.
6. Senola Musical Products.
7. The Megaphone, Co.
8. Victoria Phone Record Co.
9. Messrs. Bajaj & Co.
10. The Frontier Trading Co
11. The Bharat Record Co.
12. Pioneer and Musical Varieties, Ltd
13. Jay-Bharat Record Co.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government will not re-examine the position with a view to find out if more money cannot be given to the artists themselves instead of to the Gramophone companies (who are only middlemen) and whether Government cannot invite these artists independently to the radio stations and create their own records for the purpose of broadcasting?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As to whether it is possible to produce our own records is a matter that will be examined. I do not know whether it is possible.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why it is that we are treated to the same records month in and month out belonging to the same film companies and why new records of equally attractive songs are not created by the Department, which would satisfy the public taste and which would also save the Government the royalty which they are paying? Will the Honourable Minister consider the suggestion?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As I said I will examine the question as to whether it is possible to produce our own records and see if anything can be done in the matter.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know whether subsidy is being paid only to these two companies and whether there are any other companies also to which subsidies are not being paid?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There are no other companies to which subsidies are paid.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the position regarding the records of American and other foreign gramophone companies, which are being played on the All India Radio?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I know nothing about it. I shall inquire into the matter.

MUSLIM OFFICERS IN THE CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE AND THE CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENTS

†1961. ***Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth** (on behalf of **Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer**): (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how many officers there are in the Central Board of Revenue and how many of them are Muslims?

(b) How many Collectors are there in the Customs and Central Excise Departments and how many of them are Muslims?

† This question was taken up in the second round.

(c) How many Deputy Collectors, Assistant Collectors, Superintendents and Chief Accounts Officers are there in the Central Excise Department and how many of them are Muslims?

(d) What is the total number of such posts as Deputy Superintendents, Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Supervisors in the Central Excise Department and what is the percentage of Muslims holding such posts?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Total—24; Muslims—2.

(b) *Customs*—Total—4, Muslim—1

Central Excise—Total—5, Muslims—Nil

(c) and (d) A statement giving the particulars is laid on the table.

showing the total number of executive posts in the Central Excise Department and the number and percentage held by Muslims.

As on 1st January 1947

S No.	Designation	Total No. of posts	No held by Muslims	Percentage of Muslims to total*	Remarks
1	Deputy Collectors	5	1	20.0	These are filled by promotion on a basis of selection.
2	Assistant Collectors	47	8†	17.0	
3	Chief Accounts Officers	5			
					Normally filled by qualified Accounts Officers (S.A.S.) in consultation with the Auditor General
4	Superintendents (including Inspectors in Madras and Inspectors Groups I and II in Bombay)	194	35	18.0	3 posts v.cant. This grade is ordinarily filled by promotion on a selection basis. A proportion of direct recruitment is made in the Allahabad, C. leutt and Delhi Collectorate
5	Deputy Superintendents (including Assistant Inspectors in Madras and Inspectors Groups III and IV in Bombay)	602	168	28.1	5 posts v.cant. This grade is also generally filled by promotion
6	Inspectors (including Inspectors Groups V and VI in Bombay)	2950 (a)	1120	39.5	(a) 117 posts vacant. All the grades (Inspectors, etc.) mentioned in the Question are being combined in a single grade.
7	Sub-Inspectors (in Madras only).	1087	125	11.5	
8	Supervisors	1238 (b)	554	50.0	(b) 128 posts vacant.

* The percentages have been worked out on the basis of the posts actually filled.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: In view of the answer given just now, will the Honourable Member please examine the position and see that the Muslim position is bettered within a short time?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, the matter is under consideration.

INDIAN TROOPS SERVING OVERSEAS

†962. ***Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth** (on behalf of **Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer**): Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Indian troops serving in different countries overseas;
- (b) the names of the countries where these troops are serving, and their number in each country; and
- (c) the period for which these troops will continue to be in these countries and the time when they will be recalled to India?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to starred question No 82 answered on the 6th February 1947

(c) Since then Indian Troops in Siam have been withdrawn. As regards other countries and Government's general policy, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the statement I made on the cut motion on Friday, the 14th March 1947, last week

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who is paying for the maintenance of these troops in other countries?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Indian troops outside India are paid for by H. M. G in the U.K. except those in Japan for whom the charges are met by the Government of India

FIGURES REGARDING STERLING BALANCES

†963. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state.

(a) the exact figure representing India's Sterling Balances till the end of 1946; and

(b) whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement regarding the Honourable Member's recent talks in London leading to the visit to India of the Financial Mission from England and indicating therein as to how long the preliminary talks are expected to last in India, when the final talks are likely to begin, and whether these talks would be held in Delhi or in London?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Rs 1,623 crores approximately.

(b) I would invite attention to the reply to part (b) of question No. 79 on the 6th February 1947, and to paragraph 30 of my Budget Speech

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA AND HIS OFFICE

†964. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether the Government of India bears the whole or part of the salary of the Secretary of State for India in London and his staff, and if so, what is the total amount of salary and how much thereof is borne by this Government?

(b) What is the total number of Indians serving in that office and how many of them are Muslims?

(c) What will be the future position of that office in relation to India in view of the forthcoming changes?

† This question was taken up in the second round.

‡ This question was postponed to be taken up in the second round but could not be reached during question hour.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) As regards the first part of the question, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by my predecessor during the last budget session of the legislature to Starred Question No. 229 asked by Mr. Venkatasubba Reddiar.

As to the second part, the total cost of the Secretary of State for India and of his office in London, for the year 1946-47, is estimated at £814,000 of which, on the proportional basis explained by my predecessor, India has agreed to bear £281,250.

(b) No Indian nationals are serving in the Secretary of State's office. Two Indians are, however, serving as the Secretary of State's Advisers, one of whom is a Muslim.

(c) Government have no information.

POSITION OF THE CENTRAL TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT FOR ALL-INDIA ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

†965. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that a decision has been reached to open a Central Training Establishment to train personnel for the new All-India Administrative Services which may replace the Indian Civil Service?

(b) Was this decision reached as a result of the conference of Provincial Prime Ministers held in October, 1946, or was it a Cabinet decision?

(c) Will the present Indian Civil Service Probationer's School at Dehra Dun merge in the proposed Training Establishment, if not, what will be its position?

(d) Where will this Training Establishment be located and when will it start functioning?

(e) What will be the procedure for recruitment to the All-India Administrative Services?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) The Subject was discussed at the Premier's conference in October 1946 but the final decision was taken by the Central Government with the concurrence of the participating Provincial Governments.

(c) No such School now exists.

(d) The School will be located at Delhi and is expected to start work on the 20th March 1947.

(e) Future recruitment will be made on the results of a competitive examination conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission. This year's batch consists of those who were originally selected for the war reserved vacancies in the Indian Civil Service and who in agreement with participating Provinces have been appointed to the All-India Administrative Service.

SALE OF GOLD IN INDIA ON BEHALF OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND U. S. A.

966. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the following particulars:

(i) the total amount of gold sold during the War in India on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States of America;

(ii) the profits that accrued to the two Governments; and

(iii) the effects of these transactions on Indian economy?

† This question was postponed to be taken up in the second round but could not be reached during question hour.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (i) A statement giving the information required under item (i) is placed on the table of the House.

As regards item (ii) and (iii) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply to part (e) of question No. 47 on the 17th February, 1944 and question No. 162 on the 23rd March, 1944 and paragraph 48 of the Budget Speech for 1944-45.

Statement

Gold sales in India during the war on behalf of His Majesty's Government and United States

United Kingdom	5,248,058·450
United States of America	2,214,952·017

RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS AS OFFICERS IN INDIAN ARMY

967. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter addressed to the Commandant of the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, by the Vice-Chancellor of the Nagpur University about the recruitment of Indians as officers in the Indian Army; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the question of changing the existing methods of recruitment to enable trained students and youngmen of India to join the Army?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the press note on this subject issued on the 28th December 1946. I also place on the table of the House a copy of Defence Department letter of the 2nd January 1947 to the Vice-Chancellor of the Nagpur University.

LETTER

No. 0339/4/M.T 4 (a)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT (ARMY BRANCH)

New Delhi, the 2nd January 1947

To

The Vice Chancellor,
Nagpur University,
Nagpur.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your representation, dated 27th November 1946 addressed to the Commandant, Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun regarding the results of the final grading of gentlemen cadets who have completed the first course at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun. The effect of the final grading are that of 127 cadets, 73 were recommended to be commissioned; 12 were recommended for withdrawal, and 42 were recommended for relegation, that is to say, given a further term of training. Those who receive a further term's training will, it is hoped, reach the required standard after this further period and it is anticipated that they will then be commissioned. The number of cadets who have failed to reach the required standard and who, it is considered, will never reach that standard, is 12 out of 127, which is not considered a very high percentage. From Nagpur University one cadet has been withdrawn and four have been relegated.

2. It is recognised that in the case of the 12 who will have been withdrawn, an interruption of their academic career has resulted; but this would be equally the case had they embarked on some other profession such as medicine, and had failed to qualify in the final examination.

3. Possibly there has been some misunderstanding of the expression "relegation", which means that the candidate is given a further term of training. The system is, however, designed in the interests both of the candidate and of the Army and has long been in force at Sandhurst and elsewhere. I am to suggest however, that it would have been advisable for the Vice Chancellor of the Nagpur University to ascertain the facts before making the serious allegations contained in the representation and before circulating it so widely.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant

P. MASON,

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

No G339/4/MT-4 (a)

Copies to Vice Chancellors of all Universities in India.

MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER BY MILITARY FORCES IN PROVINCES

968. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether Government propose to station Military Forces in every province for helping the Civil Police in the maintenance of Law and Order or for the purpose of garrisoning the different areas of the country?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: This is the present practice.

REORGANISATION OF THE DEFENCE FORCES OF INDIA

969. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

(a) the Armed Forces which will be kept as Regular Forces of this country after demobilisation and repatriation have been completed;

(b) the Regiments that are exclusively from certain provinces (with the names of the provinces) and those that are miscellaneous and common Regiments,

(c) the number of Indian Officers who will be left in the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force after demobilisation and repatriation;

(d) the number of Indian officers drawn from each province;

(e) whether opportunities will be given to all Provinces to have their proportionate share of appointments in the Officers' cadre;

(f) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing a Committee for the re-organisation of the Defence Forces of the country; and

(g) whether Government propose consulting the Provincial Governments as to their needs and suggestions in the matter of reorganising the Defence Forces of the country?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (c) Government have not yet decided on the size of the post-war Armed Forces

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Indian Army List, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(d) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(e) The grant of commissions in the Armed Forces is not made on a provincial basis. Equal opportunity exists for all provinces.

(f) No, Sir

(g) No, Sir.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Provinces, etc.	Royal Indian Navy	Indian Army	Royal Indian Air Force
Assam	3	92	4
Bengal	57	919	138
Bihar	5	195	28
Bombay	211	827	116
C. P. and Berar	19	184	35
Madras	58	1,080	181
N. W. F. P.	6	448	33
Orissa	2	23	6
Punjab	224	5,205	428
Sind	15	103	12
U. P.	61	1,264	147
Ajmer-Merwar . . . . .	.	11	3.
Baluchistan	1	34	.
Coorg . . . . .	.	46	.
Delhi	8	103	30.
States	34	951	114
Burma, Malay. & China	21	.	20
Total	725	11,488	1,297

SHARE OF PROVINCES OF INCOME-TAX REVENUE

970. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state what percentage of the Income-tax revenue is paid to the Provinces?

(b) Does the Provincial share of the revenue vary in scale in respect of different Provinces?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) and (b). Fifty per cent. of the net proceeds of taxes on income in British India as a whole, as reduced by the proceeds attributable to the Chief Commissioners' provinces, Central (Federal) emoluments and the amount retained by the Centre in accordance with section 138 (2) of the Government of India Act, 1935, is distributed between the provinces in accordance with the percentages laid down in the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order, 1936.

GRANT TO PROVINCIAL C. I. D. FOR REWARDING POSTAL EMPLOYEES

971. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an yearly grant is made to each Provincial C. I. D. through the Intelligence Bureau for the purpose of rewarding postal employees;

(b) if so, when this practice was started and the particular reasons for doing the same;

(c) the amounts paid to each Province during the years 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945 and 1946; and

(d) whether Government are aware that the practice was introduced to enlist the co-operation of the Postal employees to fight the "Quit India" Movement of 1942; if so, do Government propose to discontinue these grants?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (d). The question concerns the operation of intelligence and I regret I am unable, in the public interest, to give the information sought.

INTERCEPTION OF CORRESPONDENCE BY THE PROVINCIAL C. I. D. THROUGH POSTAL EMPLOYEES:

972. ***Lala Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether the interception of correspondence of particular persons when authorised by a local Government is in practice carried out by the Provincial C. I. D. through the Postal employees?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The question concerns the operation of intelligence and I regret I am unable, in the public interest, to give the information sought.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOUR OF EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN OFFICERS OF THE DELHI POLICE

973. ***Lala Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that European and Anglo-Indian Officers of the Delhi Police enjoy certain privileges which are denied to Indian Officers of the same rank; if so, the reasons for same, and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to stop this racial discrimination?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) No: excepting that European and Anglo-Indian Inspectors, if free government residential accommodation is not available, are granted house-rent allowance of Rs. 60 per mensem in lieu thereof as against Rs. 45 p. m. given to Indian Inspectors following the rules in force in the Punjab whence these officers are borrowed.

(b) The question of removing this discrepancy is under my consideration.

GRIEVANCES OF THE STUDENTS OF THE DELHI POLYTECHNIC.

974. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state:

(a) if the grievances of the students of the Delhi Polytechnic have been removed since their strike last year; and

(b) the steps taken for the recognition of the Polytechnic as the technical department of the Delhi University?

آئیہیل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (اے) طالب علموں کی اصلی مانگ یہ تھی کہ آل انڈیا قیلموں کو ریگڈلائز کیا جاوے اور اگر ایسا نہ ہو سکے تو پھر پولی ٹیکنک کو دہلی یونیورسٹی سے ملا دیا جائے۔ اب فیڈرل پبلک سروس کمیشن نے آل انڈیا قیلموں کو الیکٹریکل انجینئرنگ کے لئے وقتی طور پر ریگڈلائز کر لیا ہے اس کا مطلب یہ ہوا کہ اونچے درجہ کی سروسز کے لئے کبڈلڈ انجینئرنگ سروس کا امتحان سنٹرل

گورنمنٹ کے نیچے ہونا ہے اس میں شامل ہونے کے لئے یہ ڈپلوما ایک کافی کوالیفیکیشن سمجھا جائیگا۔ ابھی یہ ریکگنیشن وقتی طور پر ہوا ہے لیکن جب انسٹی ٹیوشن آف انجینیرز (انڈیا) اسے منظور کرلیگا تو یہ ہمیشہ کے لئے ہو جائیگا۔ اسی انسٹی ٹیوشن کی ایک کمیٹی نے حل میں پولی ٹیکنک کی دیکھ بھال کی تھی۔ اب اسکے فیصلہ کا انتظار کیا جا رہا ہے۔

اسی طرح کامرس کے آل انڈیا ڈپلوما جس میں آڈیٹنگ ایک خاص سہجکت کی طرح لیا گیا ہو۔ فست آر۔ اے اکڑامینٹیشن کے برابر مان لیا گیا ہے۔

تمام آل انڈیا ڈپلومے اسی غرض سے ریکگنائز کر لئے گئے ہیں کہ سینٹرل گورنمنٹ کی میڈیجٹل پوسٹس اور سینڈر پار اسکالرشپ کے لئے کام دے سکیں۔

طالب علموں کی دوسری شکایتیں، لبارٹری اسٹاف اور ہوسٹل کے لئے تہیں۔ یہ شکایتیں بہت حد تک دور کر دی گئی ہیں۔

(بی) دہلی یونیورسٹی کو ایک درخواست بھیجی گئی ہے کہ پولی ٹیکنک ڈیپارٹمنٹ یونیورسٹی سے ملا دئے جائیں۔ آنرز ڈگری کورس کی ایک اسکیم پر بھی گورنمنٹ آجکل سوچ بچار کر رہی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The main demand of the students was the recognition of the All-India Diplomas or in the alternative affiliation of the Polytechnic to the Delhi University. The Federal Public Service Commission have now provisionally recognised the All-India Diploma in Electrical Engineering as a sufficient qualification for admission to the Combined Engineering Services Examination for recruitment to Superior Engineering Services under the Central Government. This recognition will be made absolute after the Institution of Engineers (India) accept this qualification for purposes of exemption from Sections 'A' and 'B' of their Associate Membership Examination. A Committee of the Institution of Engineers (India) recently inspected the Polytechnic and the Institution's decision is awaited.

The All-India Diploma in Commerce with Auditing as a special subject has been recognised an equivalent to first R.A. Examination for purposes of Rule. 61(2) (iv) (b) of the Income-tax Act. The Diploma with Auditing and Accountancy as special subject has been accepted as equivalent to a degree of an Indian University for purposes of employment in the Office of the Auditor General in India.

All All-India Diplomas have been recognised for recruitment to teaching posts under the Central Government and for overseas scholarships.

The other grievances of the students relate to laboratories, staff and hostels and these have been removed to a considerable extent.

(b) An application has been made to Delhi University for affiliation of some of the Technical Departments of the Polytechnic. A scheme for instituting Honours Degree Courses in Technology is under consideration.

PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO DIPLOMA HOLDER OF DELHI POLYTECHNIC

975. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Education please state :

(a) if the students of the Delhi Polytechnic after passing the Polytechnic senior course are eligible for going abroad for further studies; and

(b) the facilities which Government intend to provide to the Diploma holders of the Polytechnic as compared to the graduates of other Universities for further studies abroad?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (اے) ہاں یولی ٹیکنک سینئر کورس کے ڈپلوما پائے ہوئے

طالب علموں کو اس فرض سے ریگولیشن کر لیا گیا ہے کہ وہ سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کے سینئر ڈیپارٹمنٹس کا وظیفہ پاسکیں -

(بی) ڈپلوما پائے ہوئے طالب علموں کا وہی درجہ مان لیا گیا ہے جو دوسری یونیورسٹیوں کے گریجویٹس کا ہے البتہ گورنمنٹ یہ نہیں سمجھتی کہ انہیں کوئی خاص طریقہ کا اور درجہ دیا جائے -

The Honourable Maluana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The Polytechnic Senior courses leading to All-India Diplomas are recognised for the award of Central Government Overseas Scholarships under the scheme sponsored by the Education Department

(b) The Diploma holders are treated on par with the graduates of other universities and Government do not contemplate extending any special privilege to them

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Government of India makes grants to the Delhi University, may I know why is it that the Government of India have not been able to persuade the Delhi University to adopt this Polytechnic Institute as one of its own institutions and to recognise it as one of its polytechnic faculties?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں نے ابھی کہا ہے کہ دہلی یونیورسٹی کو درخواست

دی گئی ہے اور اس معاملہ میں غور کیا جا رہا ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I have just said that Delhi University has been approached and the matter is under consideration

ڈاکٹر جے۔ سی۔ چیٹرجی : جذب صدر کیا میں یہ دریافت کر سکتا ہوں کہ اگر

گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے ڈپلوما کو منظور کر لیا ہے تو ایسی سروسز کے لئے دوسری یونیورسٹیوں میں بھی ان کا ڈپلوما اسی طرح منظور کیا ہے - اگر منظور کیا ہے تو جذب کسی یونیورسٹی کا نام بتلا سکتے ہیں جہاں ڈپلومے کو منظور کیا گیا ہے -

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Sir, may I ask if the Government of India have recognised the Diploma, have they also recognised such diplomas of other universities in the matter of entry into their services? If so, will the Honourable Member name such Universities?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : کسی دوسری یونیورسٹی کے متعلق گورنمنٹ آف

انڈیا کو اطلاع نہیں ہے لیکن جیسا کہ ممبر صاحب کو معلوم ہے کہ ان تمام باتوں پر غور کیا جا رہا ہے -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government of India have no information regarding any other University but as the Honourable Member is aware all these matters are under consideration

ڈاکٹر جے - سی چٹرجی : جناب سے میں یہ معلوم کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا

جناب یہ کوشش کریں گے کہ دوسری یونیورسٹیوں کے اندر میں ان ڈیپلوموں کو منظور کرلیں - اور دوسری بات جو میں دریافت کرنا.....

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: May I ask if you will try to make other universities also to recognize these diplomas. The other question

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can ask one question at a time.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس بڑے میں کاروائی کیجائیگی -

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Action will be taken in this matter.

ڈاکٹر جے - سی - چٹرجی : کیا جناب کو یہ بھی معلوم ہے کہ یہ ڈیپلوما جو یہاں

بتایا جاتا ہے وہ اس درجہ تک نہیں پہنچا کہ کوئی بھی یونیورسٹی اس کو منظور کر سکے -

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Is the Honourable Member aware that this diploma which is granted here has not reached a position where it may be accepted by other universities?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : میں ایسا خیال نہیں کرنا بہر حال اس کی

تحقیق ت کیجا ئیگی -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I do not think so. Anyhow inquiries will be made.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE STRENGTH OF THE ARMY OF THE FUTURE.

976. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state when Government propose to publish the Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to examine the strength of the Indian Army of the future?

(b) Do Government propose to lay a copy of this report on the table of the House?

(c) Has this report been made available to Members of the Interim Government and has it been given to members of the Gopalaswami Iyengar Committee for the Nationalisation of the Indian Army?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to The Army Reorganization Committee appointed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in 1944. As has repeatedly been explained on the floor of this House before, this was not a Government of India Committee but a committee of staff officers appointed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in order that they might report to him personally on the problems referred to them. Its terms of reference did not relate solely to the future size of the Indian Army but covered the size, order of battle, location, organization for command, composition and integration of the Army and Air Forces. Again as has been repeatedly explained on the floor of this House, the report was never intended for publication and will not be published.

(b) No, Sir, for the reasons explained to the House on the 30th October 1946.

(c) The Nationalisation Committee have been given a copy of this Report. The Report is, of course, available to any Member of the Interim Government who wishes to see it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether it has been actually given to any Member of the Cabinet?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I said, Sir, that the document was not kept back from any Member of the Interim Government. It will be made available to any Member of the Interim Government who wishes to see it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why a Report which was prepared at the expense of the taxpayers' money and which deals with the important topics which the Honourable the Defence Secretary mentioned should be kept as secret and when the Defence Department happens to get a secret leak?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid there is a misapprehension on the subject. The wide range of subjects to which I referred indicate the secret and technical nature of the problems and for security reasons it would be unwise to disclose these matters on the floor of the House. If the Honourable Members of the House were really much interested in this particular subject and if there was a secret session of the House there would be no objection to mentioning the details.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will this Report be made available to the Members of the Defence Consultative Committee or placed before a meeting of the said Committee?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: As the report is not available to the Members of this House, individually or collectively, I suggest, it should not be available to the Members of the Defence Consultative Committee as such also. Several matters arising out of the report have already been placed before the Committee.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: What is the objection to placing this matter before the Defence Consultative Committee meeting on the distinct understanding that the discussion on this matter will be maintained as a closed secret?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: That suggestion will be considered by the Government, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: As the Report is being secreted and kept back from the Members of this House in spite of repeated requests, may I know whether the Honourable the Defence Secretary is in a position to give any assurance to this House and refute the suggestion that the Report contains anti-Indian matter—matter derogatory to the Indian section of the Army?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I cannot say much without disclosing the contents of the Report but I think there is nothing derogatory to the Indian Army as such in the Report so far as I recollect.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government take an early opportunity of placing this Report before the Cabinet and getting it discussed?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, if the Cabinet wishes to discuss it there cannot be the slightest objection to placing the whole thing before the Cabinet.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will not Government now make an effort to give us a summary of the Report deleting those portions which they think are of such security importance that they should not fall into the hands of any prospective enemy of this country?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: That suggestion will be considered, Sir.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPARTMENTAL AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON THE STRENGTH OF THE INDIAN ARMY

977. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state whether Government have considered the recommendations of the Departmental and Technical Committee, which reported on the strength of the Indian Army?

(b) Which of these recommendations have they adopted?

(c) Which of them have Government rejected and for what reasons?

(d) What steps are Government taking in order to increase the interest in and understanding of Defence matters by the public?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) If the Honourable Member is referring to the Reorganisation Committee, the answer is that this was not a Government of India Committee but a Committee of staff officers. It did not report to Government but to the Commander-in-Chief and therefore the Commander-in-Chief was the proper authority to consider its recommendations

(b) and (c). Do not arise

(d) By service exhibition and Defence Services Weeks; by visits of prominent public men and pressmen to Services installations and formations; by publicity on the radio and in the press through articles and photographs; and by books and pamphlets.

Services sports representatives at headquarters of Commands are also maintaining close liaison with civil press correspondents which has resulted in the public taking a greatly increased interest in Service sports and games.

For the last seven years every effort has been made to interest the general public in the Armed Forces and great progress has been made in this direction. These efforts are continuing and are being intensified. The more interest the public take in the Armed Forces, the more pleased will Government be.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Commander-in-Chief occupies a very exalted office paid for by India. May I know how long this distinction that he can get a report made and that that report is not a Government report will continue, how long it is intended to maintain this distinction of a kingdom within a kingdom?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid there is again a misapprehension, if I may submit. It is the duty of the Commander-in-Chief to advise Government as regards the size composition of Armed Forces and other problems of Defence. In order to assist him in collecting material and in formulating his own views in order to be able to advise Government, he selected certain Staff Officers to advise him on the subject in detail.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the size and composition have got financial aspects and these are aspects in which the Honourable the Defence Secretary must have seen this House is very keenly interested in all sections, may I know whether something will not be done to explain this issue to this House so that the House may be reconciled to the extraordinary amount of money which Defence is eating up?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: When Government have decided on the important questions of the size and the composition of the Forces, the matter will be placed before the House.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact, as stated by the Honourable Member that the Government cannot call for the report of the Commander-in-Chief which is his own particular property, how will the Government be able to consider that Report?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. I never said that the Government cannot have that Report. In fact, I have said that any Member of the Interim Government who is interested can call for it and he will be immediately supplied with a copy.

Mr. Mann Subedar: How many Indians were there in this Wilcox Committee, and how many Europeans?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Speaking from memory I think one Indian was on the Committee, but I must ask for notice.

Mr. Mann Subedar: And how many others?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I must ask for notice of that question

LOSS IN THE GRAIN SHOP AT NASIK PRINTING PRESS

978. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a sum of approximately Rs. 90,000 has been written off on account of loss in the grainshop attached to the Printing press at Nasik; and

(b) whether there has been any investigation into that matter?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) The Honourable Member's information is not correct. The total amount written off from the inception of the grainshop in 1940-41 to the end of the year 1945-46 was Rs. 43,262. Of this, Rs. 20,183 represents loss due to the revaluation of stocks when controlled rates were introduced, which was treated as "write off on account of revaluation" with the concurrence of the Audit authorities. Of the balance, more than Rs. 20,000 represents the loss in weight due to drying of firewood, which, Government are satisfied, falls within the permissible percentage adopted by the Forest Department of the Provincial Government.

(b) Does not arise, in view of the reply given to part (a)

INDIANS IN THE NASIK PRINTING PRESS

979. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state: how many non-Indians are now working in the Nasik Printing Press and what are their ranks and remuneration?

(b) What are their special qualifications for holding the posts?

(c) What steps are being taken to appoint Indians to these posts?

(d) How many Indians are holding posts which are equivalent in rank and remuneration to the posts held by these non-Indians?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a), (b) and (d) I lay on the table of the House a statement which gives the information desired by the Honourable Member.

(c) The general policy of Indianisation of the higher administrative posts of Master and Deputy Master was initiated in 1932, when two Indian officers were recruited as Assistant Masters for training in the work of the Department with a view to subsequent promotion to administrative appointments. One of these officers now holds the post of Deputy Master of the Stamp Press; the other is no longer in service.

Two other young Indian officers were recruited as Assistant Masters in mid-1946 and are now undergoing training for the same purpose. Future recruitment to these administrative posts will be confined to Indian nationals.

Efforts are being made to recruit Artist Engravers in India, though in these days of specialised training in art and process work separately, instead of jointly as in the past, it may be difficult to find persons possessing the combined qualifications suitable for the requirements of the Press.

As regards Technical Supervisors and Assistant Inspectors, there should be no difficulty in replacing the present incumbents by Indians on retirement.

Statement

S. No	Designation of post	Remuneration	Special qualifications	Total number of posts or equivalent remuneration	Number of posts held by non Indians	Number of posts held by Indians
1	The Master, Security Printing, India	Rs 2400 p.m. in the scale of Rs 2000-2500-3000 plus £13/6/8 O S P	Royal Engineer Officer Selected on account of his all round qualifications, with subsequent experience of the Department.	1	1	None
2	The Deputy Master Currency Note Press	Rs 1100 p.m. in the scale of Rs 1000-50-1400 plus £30 O S P	Ditto	2	1	1
3	The Assistant Master, Currency Note Press (temporary)	Rs 600 p.m. in the scale of Rs 500-25-600-30-900 plus Special pay Rs 120 p.m. Compensation allowance=10% Cost of living allowance=Rs 128 p.m. Present pay while officiating as Deputy Master in leave vacancy Rs 1,000 plus £30 O S P Cost of living allowance Rs 175 p.m.	Fully trained printer filling an administrative post as a temporary measure	3	1	2

S. No.	Designation of post	Remuneration	Special qualification	Total number of posts of same or equivalent rank and remuneration	Number of posts held by non Indians	Number of posts held by Indians
4	The Head Engraver	Rs 1,000 in the scale of Rs 700—50—1,000 <i>plus</i> Compensatory Allowance = 10% Cost of Living Allowance = Rs 17.5 p.m.	Specially recruited from England in 1938 for design and process work in which he had training and experience	1	1	None
5	Technical Supervisor	Rs 410 in the scale of Rs 350—20—590 <i>plus</i> Cost of Living Allowance = Rs 72 p.m.	Trained in the S.P.I. as an apprentice	16	1	15
6	Assistant Inspector	Rs 150 p.m. in the scale of Rs 100—10—150—12—270 <i>plus</i> Cost of Living Allowance = Rs 30 p.m. Interim Relief = Rs 48 p.m. and Gratuity Allowance = Rs 3/12 p.m.	Holds Army First Class School Certificate and possesses previous experience in the Control Section as Head Clerk	43	1	42

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: How many of these officials, Indians or non-Indians, have special qualifications in the matter of stamp designing or otherwise

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I have just placed a statement on the table of the House.

SELECTION OF CADETS FOR THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, DEHRA DUN FOR KING'S COMMISSION IN 1946

980. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cadets from the Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun who applied for the King's Commission in the year 1946;
- (b) how many were selected; and
- (c) how many were rejected and the reasons for their rejection?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (i) *Indian Army* —(a) Fifteen cadets from the Prince of Wales's Royal Indian Military College, Dehra Dun, appeared before Selection Boards for acceptance for training for regular commissions as Indian Commissioned Officers in the Indian Land Forces

(b) Eleven were accepted and one deferred

(c) Three were rejected by the Board but, on a representation from the Principal of the College, they were permitted, as a special case, to appear before a second Board. They were rejected because they were found by both Boards to be lacking in the qualities required of officers and were not up to standard

(ii) *R.I.A.F.* —(a) and (b). Six cadets applied for acceptance for training for regular commissions in the R.I.A.F. and all were accepted

(c) Does not arise

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: How long did these candidates remain at the Military Academy?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: This question refers to the cadets at the Prince of Wales's Royal Indian Military College and not to the Indian Military Academy

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are there any preliminary tests before they are taken to this College?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I do not think so.

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: In view of the fact that the course at this college is seven years, is it not surprising that for seven years the authorities of this college were not able to find out whether these cadets were suitable? Why were their parents put to this tremendous expense for the long period of seven years?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: This happens in every educational institution. For instance, a student undergoing a medical course studies for five or seven years and if unfortunately at the end of the course he fails in the examination it is nobody's fault.

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: The circumstances are entirely different. Boys in this school are received at very early ages—ten or eleven—and therefore is it not surprising that during seven years this highly paid and trained staff were not able to detect that four out of fifteen candidates were entirely unsuitable?

Mr. President: This is a matter of opinion and argument.

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of improving the staff there, so that this wastage of time of money on the part of candidates and their parents will not occur?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: It does not follow that the failures are due to any lack of ability on the part of the staff, not necessarily.

PUNISHMENT OF INDIAN ARMY MEN OF THE 4TH INDIAN COASTAL BATTERY

981. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) With reference to the starred question No. 1655 asked on the 9th of April, 1946 regarding the punishment of certain Indian Army men of the 4th Indian Coastal Battery, will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether Government have considered the question of releasing Gunners Rahaman and Ghosh sentenced to transportation for life and Gunner A. C. Dey sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment in the middle of 1948?

(b) When do Government propose to make the promised report?

(c) Have Government considered the question of having a non-official enquiry made into the matter?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the question of placing the whole case before the Defence Consultative Committee?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The cases of Gunners Rahaman, Ghosh and A. C. Dey were reviewed in September 1946, as a result of which two years of the sentence passed on Gunner A. C. Dey were remitted. Their cases will be further reviewed from time to time.

(b) The report was laid on the table of the House on the 28th October 1946.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Government do not think, Sir, that any useful purpose would be served by discussing this matter with the Defence Consultative Committee, but if the Honourable Member so desires they will have no objection to placing the matter before the Defence Consultative Committee.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to the assurances of Mr. Philip Mason on that particular day in reply to the various questions which were put on that day, in which he practically gave an assurance that the non-official inquiry will be made and that the reports will be made available for the Defence Consultative Committee?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I do not find anything on the record to suggest that my predecessor promised that a non-official inquiry would be made. I would like my Honourable friend to draw my attention to the proceedings of the House.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I do not like to take up time by referring in *extenso* to the questions and answers but in reply to various questions he promised to look into the matter and personally he said he did not think that there was any difficulty in placing the matter before the Defence Consultative Committee. Will the Honourable Member kindly consider the whole question afresh in order to see whether the pledges and assurances which were given explicitly and by clear implication can be implemented by this Government?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The statement placed on the table of the House on the 28th October 1946 is the result of the undertakings and assurances given by my predecessor. In fact the document was prepared by him. I have added that if the Honourable Member so desires this question will be placed before the next meeting of the Defence Consultative Committee and he can then raise any questions he likes in relation to this matter.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: In the meantime will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of publishing the correspondence between the lawyers and the department concerned, which correspondence was promised by Mr. Mason would be made available to the Members of the House?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I suggest that this question also had better wait until the matter comes up before the Defence Consultative Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How often are these cases reviewed? Is there any time limit at all?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: This particular case is likely to be reviewed in July this

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: What was the sentence on Gunner A. C. Dey of which two years were remitted.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Gunner A. C. Dey was sentenced to seven years, of which two years were remitted.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know whether the question of releasing these prisoners is being considered in the light of the general policy of this Government, which made it clear that such people will be released unless there are extraordinary reasons to the contrary?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: These are cases of mutiny and they were discussed at very great length on the floor of the House. There was no general policy indicated that all mutineers will be released.

TROOPS' REGIMENTS SENT TO MALABAR IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1946.

982. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether any troops were sent to Malabar in the Madras Presidency in the second half of 1946 and if so, at whose request they were sent and for what purpose;

(b) the number and names of the regiments sent to Malabar; and

(c) whether they are still stationed in Malabar?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sir. Troops were sent to Malabar for one week from the 29th of August to the 4th of September at the request of the Government of Madras. This was done to counteract subversive propaganda aimed at fostering communal trouble.

(b) One composite battalion made up from the Royal Artillery of the Second British Division.

(c) No, Sir.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: How did the Government of India come to know that there was going to be subversive activity in Malabar?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The Government of Madras made the request to the Central Government. It was at their request that the troops were sent.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Were the troops sent at the request of the Premier or the Governor of Madras?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: It is the Government we are concerned with. The request came from the Provincial Government.

GRANT OF PERMANENT COMMISSION TO I. A. V. C. EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

†983. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the case of the I. A. V. C. Emergency Commissioned Officers for the grant of permanent Commissions has been finally turned down by the Adjutant General in India;

(b) whether those Viceroy's Commissioned Officers in the I. A. V. C., who were granted Emergency Commissions will now be reverted to their pre-war ranks or whether they will be allowed to retire on pensions prematurely;

(c) whether Government are aware that the pensions granted to this class of officers will be practically half of what the other Army Officers will receive; if so, the reasons for this distinction in their case; and

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(d) whether Government propose to review their case and consider them for the grant of permanent Commissions, or even for short term Commissions, or give them proportionate pensions on the same scale, as has been granted in the case of other Army officers?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) No, Sir. The position is that Emergency Commissioned Officers of the I.A.V.C. who hold the M.R.C.V.S. diploma or the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the Madras or Punjab Universities are eligible for permanent Commissions but those who hold only licentiate diplomas are not eligible.

(b) Pre-war V.C.O.s, who were granted Emergency Commissions are eligible for re-appointment as V.C.O.s as and when their services are no longer required as officers, or to retire on pension as Veterinary Assistant Surgeons. Their officer service counts for Veterinary Assistant Surgeon's pension.

(c) Veterinary Assistant Surgeons are entitled to pension on Civil scales. They were granted commissions as officers on the clear understanding that they will be eligible for pension as Veterinary Assistant Surgeons

(d) Government are considering the following proposals

(i) That selected Licentiates with outstanding records should be granted short service commissions or be allowed to continue as Emergency Commissioned Officers for a time to give them a chance of obtaining the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science by attending a short course at the Madras or Punjab University.

(ii) That pension under the rules applicable to Viceroy's Commissioned Officers granted commissions in other arms be granted to Veterinary Assistant Surgeons holding Emergency Commissions in the I.A.V.C.

DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

1984. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Secretary of the Health Department be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the present Chairman and Members of the Delhi Improvement Trust and of those who have held office as Chairmen and Members of the Trust in the past, mentioning in each case, the period during which the individual held office;

(b) the salaries paid to the Chairman of the Trust from time to time; and

(c) the number of officers and subordinates who were in the employment of the Trust on February 1st, 1947, mentioning the community and salary of each employee and, in case where an employee holds in addition to a post, under the Trust a post under any other local body in the Delhi Province, the salary, allowance, or any other emoluments that he may be drawing in that occupation?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: (a) to (c). Three statements giving the information are laid on the table of the House.

SETTLEMENT OF THE MILLION DOLLAR DEBT TO U. S. A.

1985. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if Government have received any communication from the United States Government asking the Government of India to settle its million dollar silver debt to the United States Government?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consult this House before finalizing the plans for such a settlement?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

‡ Not printed in these Debates. Copy placed in the Library of the House—Ed. of D.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) India does not owe any dollar debt to U.S.A. on account of silver which was obtained on replacement basis. No communication has been received from U S A. regarding the return of the silver.

(b) Does not arise.

DIRECT LOAN TO INDIA FROM U. S. A.

†886. ***Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider the desirability of asking for a direct United States loan to India for the specific purpose of making currencies available for purposes of reconstruction and development?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to question No. 76, asked by him on the 6th of February 1947

RADIO STATION AT BEZWADA

†887. ***Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government propose to take steps to implement their decision to instal a Radio Station at Bezwada?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Bezwada will be included in the post-war Scheme of Broadcasting Development, but the date on which the Station will be installed cannot yet be determined

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF EAST BENGAL SUFFERERS

†888. ***Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to ascertain that Rs. 3 crores granted by the Interim Government for relief and rehabilitation of East Bengal sufferers have been properly spent on the purpose?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The Government of India have not made any grant for the purpose mentioned by the Honourable Member.

BRITISH OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN DEFENCE FORCES

†889. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state how many British Officers have joined the Indian Defence Forces during 1946 and in January and February, 1947?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: As regards the first part of the question, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table of the House in answer to Starred Question No. 188, asked on the 11th February 1947. As regards the second part of the question, no British officer or Other Rank has been taken in any of the three Indian Services during January or February 1947.

BRITISH AND INDIAN OFFICERS IN THE SALVAGE DIRECTORATE

†900. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state:

(a) the total number of Commissioned Officers in the Salvage Directorate Government of India, and how many of these are British and how many are Indians giving their respective ranks; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to appoint an Indian as the head of the Directorate?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) There are 26 Commissioned Officers in the Armed Forces Salvage Organisation distributed as follows:—

Appointment	Rank	Held by	
		British Officers	Indian Officers
Controller	Brigadier*	1	...
Deputy Controller	Lieut.-Colonel	1	.
Assistant Controllers.	Do.	3	
Deputy Assistant Controllers	Major	8	
Staff/Captains 7	Captain	3	10

*The present incumbent holds the local rank of Major-General.

(b) The Nationalisation of the Officer Cadre of the Salvage Organisation, as well as all other parts of the Armed Forces, is awaiting the report of the Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee

OFFICERS UNDER TRAINING AT STAFF COLLEGE, QUETTA

1991. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state:

(a) how many Officers are under training at present at the Staff College, Quetta,

(b) of these how many are Indians and how many are British;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of Indian Officers for the current course has been reduced by over 60 per cent.; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to increase the number of Indian Officers at the Staff College, so that senior trained Indian Officers may be available to take over charge by June 1948?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) 182.

(b) British 125; Indian 57.

(c) No, Sir 74 officers attended the last course against 57 for the current

(d) Yes Sir

IN MILITARY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE AT NEW DELHI MEERUT AND SIMLA

992. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of officers in the Military Accountant General's Office, New Delhi and its allied branches at Meerut and Simla and the number of Muslims among them;

(b) the number of offices of Controllers of Military Accounts, the stations where they are located, the number of Controllers, Junior Controllers and other superior service officers in these offices, and how many of them are Muslims;

†Ans o this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(c) the number of Deputy Assistant Controllers and Accountants under each Controller, and how many of them are Muslims; and

(d) the number of Section Supervisors, in each Controller's office, who are in receipt of duty allowance at Rs. 40 p.m. and how many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) The total number of officers in the Military Accountant General's offices at Delhi, Meerut and Simla is 24. Two of these are Muslims

(b) There are ten Controllers' offices. The offices are situated at Lahore, Ambala, Meerut, Dehra Dun, Poona, Calcutta and Bombay. There are ten Controllers, thirteen Junior Controllers and 184 superior Service officers serving in these offices. The number of Muslims included in these figures is given below.—

(1) Controllers	2
(2) Junior Controllers	3
(3) Superior Service Officers	20

(c) A statement giving the desired information is placed on the table of the House

(d) This information is not readily available

Statement showing the number of Deputy Assistant Controllers and Accountants serving in the ten Controllers' offices and the number of Muslims amongst them.

	Total number of Deputy Assistant Controllers	Number of Muslims Deputy Assistant Controllers	Total number of Accts.	Number of Muslim Accts.
Controller of Military Accounts, Northern Command, Lahore.	65	11	51	7
Controller of Military Accounts (P), Lahore	48	4	22	3
Controller of Military Accounts, Eastern Command, Meerut.	100	8	43	2
Controller of Military Accounts, Southern Command, Poona.	52	Nil	22	Nil
Field Controller of Military Accounts (O&CH), Poona.	105	1	37	Nil
Field Controller of Military Accounts (O. Rs.), Ambala.	222	18	121	15
Controller of Accounts, Air Forces, Dehra Dun	26	2	13	3
Controllers of Naval Accounts, Bombay	22	Nil	9	Nil
Audit Officer, British Troops, Meerut	12	1	5	1
Chief Controller of Factory Accounts, Calcutta	64	3	100	8

The posts of Deputy Assistant Controllers and Accountants are filled by promotion, the latter by clerks who have passed the departmental Subordinate Accounts Service Examination and the former by Accountants.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the Resolution of the Government of India of 1934 about the appointment of 25 per cent. Muslims, may I know what is the reason for this shortage?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I would like to have notice of that question. I suppose the shortage is due to there not having been sufficient number of Muslims recruited in the past.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: We have been hearing a number of times that sufficient number of Muslims are not available. The Honourable Member should know that qualified Muslims are available and will he give us the assurance that they will be appointed according to the percentage fixed for them?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I did not say that a sufficient number of Muslims were not available.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: We have been hearing this reply for the last 20 years.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I am not concerned with the replies that were given in the past. What I stated was that probably sufficient number of Muslims were not recruited.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How are these people appointed? Is it by competitive examination or by selection?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I think there is a direct recruitment and also by promotion. I am afraid I must have notice of that question if my Honourable friend wants further information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of instituting competitive examination even by communities in order to see that only those people from a particular community are recruited who can be considered to be the most efficient people or competent people within that community?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: As far as I know, that is how it is done. If they take some representatives from a minority community, then they take only those who have qualified better than others of the same community.

MUSLIM CLERKS RECRUITED IN MILITARY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

993. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of temporary clerks of various categories recruited in the Military Accountant General's office, during the period from September 1939 to December 1946 and the number of Muslims in each category,

(b) the total number of such clerks who were promoted and the number of Muslims among them; and

(c) the total number of such clerks confirmed and the number of Muslims among them?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Total number of temporary clerks, recruited in the Military Accountant General's Office during the period from September 1939 to December 1946.

	Number of Muslims	
Temporary or B Grade clerks	235	45
Routine or C Grade clerks	10	3
Routine Division clerks	33	11
Total	278	59

(b) Eight B Grade Clerks were promoted to the 'A' Grade. None of them is a Muslim.

Two C Grade Clerks were promoted to the 'B' Grade. One of them is Muslim.

(c) Total number of clerks confirmed—18, Number of Muslims—4

PROMOTION OF MUSLIM DEPUTY ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS AS SUPERIOR SERVICE OFFICERS

994. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Deputy Assistant Controllers promoted as Superior Service Officers from 1934 to 1944, and how many of such promotions went to Muslims;

(b) the number of pensioners who were re-employed as Deputy Assistant Controllers and promoted as Superior Service Officers during war time and the number of Muslims so promoted; and

(c) the number of Superior Service Officers and Deputy Assistant Controllers who were sent out of India on Field Service and how many of them were Muslims, how many of them received special recognition of their services ex-India by grant of title or promotion to superior service and how many of those whose services were so recognised were Muslims?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Thirteen Deputy Assistant Controllers have been promoted to the permanent cadre of the Superior Service. None of these is a Muslim. Eighty were promoted to the Emergency cadre. Five of these are Muslims.

(b) Six retired Deputy Assistant Controllers were re-employed and later promoted as Superior Service officers. None of them is a Muslim.

(c) Sixteen Superior Service Officers and 36 Deputy Assistant Controllers proceeded overseas. Three Superior Service Officers and five Deputy Assistant Controllers were Muslims. One of these Muslim Deputy Assistant Controllers was awarded the title of Khan Sahib. Courtesy titles were conferred on six Deputy Assistant Controllers of other communities.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATIVES IN CONFERENCE OF CONTROLLERS OF MILITARY ACCOUNTS

995. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a conference of Controllers of Military Accounts is held twice every year to discuss matters of policy, such as promotion of officers and establishment, and, if so, which officers attend this Conference and whether there is adequate representation of Muslim officers in this Conference?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: A Conference of Controllers is held as and when the Military Accountant General considers such a Conference is necessary. Command Controllers and Officers of the status of a Command Controller are ex-officio members of this Conference. Controllers in charge of smaller offices, such as the Controller of Naval Accounts are invited by the Military Accountant General at his discretion. At present there are eight officers who have the status of a Command Controller. Two of them are Muslims.

MILITARY COLLEGE IN BENGAL

996. *Mr. G. B. Dani (on behalf of **Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah**): Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received any representation from the Government of Bengal requesting them to establish a Military College in Bengal for the benefit of the Bengali people; and

(b) if so, what is the policy of Government in this respect?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) No, Sir.

(b) The policy of Government is that the Armed Forces should be free from communal and provincial considerations.

Mr. Tahiruddin Khan: Has the Government any scheme of establishing Military Colleges in India?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: That question does not seem to arise from this one.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: What are the special facilities that are given by the Government of India to people of those provinces who want to get military training but who live in very far off and outlying territories?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The same facilities are available to all citizens of India.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I am asking with regard to recruitment. Is it within the mind of the Government to extend facilities to all parts of India as far as possible consistently with efficiency?

Mr. President: He says there are equal facilities for all the residents of India.

Mr. Tamsuddin Khan: May I ask the Honourable Member why is it that he has raised the question of continual consideration in military matters as no such question was at all asked?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The question is:

"(a) whether the Government of India have received any representation from the Government of Bengal requesting them to establish a Military College in Bengal for the benefit of the Bengali people; and

(b) if so, what is the policy of Government in this respect?"

It was in reply to part (b) of the question that I gave the reply.

AWARD OF OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS IN 1945 AND 1946

997. ***Mr. G. B. Dani:** Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government of India have published any information regarding the award of overseas scholarships in 1945 and 1946;

(b) if so, was there any specification with regard to the quota for each caste and creed,

(c) how many applications were received in 1945 by Government from each province; and

(d) how many applicants were called for interview and out of those how many were selected from each province?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (اے) سفندر پار اسکالرشپ کے بارے میں ہر طرح کی انفارمیشن سلیکشن بورڈ اور سلیفٹر اسکالرشپ کی رپورٹ بابت سنہ ۱۹۴۵ء میں چھپ چکی ہے جسکی ایک کاپی ہاؤس کی لائبریری میں مل سکتی ہے اس طرح کی دوسری رپورٹ جو سنہ ۱۹۴۶ء کے سلیکشن سے تعلق رکھتی ہے آج کل چھپوائی جا رہی ہے یہ بہت جلد ہاؤس کے تمام آنریبل ممبروں کو بھیج دی جائے گی۔

(بی) جہاں تک سلیکٹر اسکالرشپ دیلے کا تعلق ہے گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کی پالیسی برابر یہ رہی ہے کہ مائڈا دیٹی کمیونٹیز میں ان کا بقول اسی حساب سے ہو جو گورنمنٹ سروس ریکورڈ ملت کے لئے تیار کیا جا چکا ہے البتہ یہ شرط ضرور سامنے رکھتی ہے کہ جتنے اسکالرشپ انہیں دیلے جائیں گے اتنے قابل افسدوار گن میں مل جائیں

(سی) ۱۹۴۵ء میں بھارت کی بورڈ آف سلیکشن (ABOS) کے

درخواستیں ملتی تھیں۔ یہ بتانا ممکن نہیں ہے کہ ان درخواستوں میں

کتنی درخواستیں کن کن صوبوں کی تھیں کیونکہ صوبہ وار کسی ٹیکہ

نہیں کیا گیا۔

(فی) انریبل ممبر کو سلیکشن بورڈ کی رپورٹ بابت ۱۹۴۵ء کے صفحہ ۶

کی طرف توجہ دلائی جاتی ہے۔ ان دونوں سوالوں کے بارے میں ترم

ضروری باتیں وہاں بتلا دی گئیں تھیں۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Full information regarding the award of Overseas Scholarships has been published in the Report of the Selection Board, Overseas Scholarships 1945, a copy of which is available in the library of the House. A similar report in respect of 1946 selections is now under publication and will be supplied to all the Honourable Members of the House shortly.

(b) In so far as the award of Central Scholarships are concerned it has throughout been the policy of the Government of India to ensure the same proportion of these scholarships for the different minority communities as is prescribed for purposes of recruitment to Government service, provided suitable candidates from those communities are forthcoming.

(c) In all 8,835 applications were received by the Selection Board in 1945, but it is not possible to say how many candidates applied from each province, as the applications, except those of the candidates finally selected, were not classified on a Provincial Basis.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to page 6 of the said report where full information is given on both these points.

میسٹر سسکا سیکھر سنیال : Scholar ships جو دیے جاتے ہیں ان میں سے کتنے کے لیے کوئی الگ proportion رکھا گیا ہے کہ نہیں ؟

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is any proportion of scholarships that are awarded reserved for women?

انریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : نہیں۔ عورتوں کے لئے کوئی الگ حصہ مقرر نہیں

ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: No There is no separate proportion for women.

میسٹر سسکا سیکھر سنیال : کیا آنرےبل ممبر صاحب اس پر خیال کریں گے اور اور فرماویں گے ؟

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member please consider it?

انریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ہاں اس پر خیال کیا جائیگا اور یہ چیز پیش نظر ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Yes, it will be considered and it is borne in mind.

Mr. G. B. Dani: With regard to part (b) of the question, may I ask the Honourable Member if there was any restriction with regard to caste and creed in making award of overseas scholarships as mentioned in the brochure, vide page 4. para. 12?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس کے لئے نوٹس کی ضرورت ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I want notice to answer this question.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: With regard to part (d) of the question, may I ask if it is a fact that a member of the backward classes from the Central Provinces, Mr Ghodimare, was awarded a scholarship, was granted a passport and was given priority by Government and he made all arrangements and then Government came down because this scholarship was granted under an impression that he was a member of the depressed classes.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس کے لئے نوٹس چاہئے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: I want notice to answer this question.

MUSLIMS HOLDING CLASS I APPOINTMENTS IN ENGINEERING SECTION OF THE ALL INDIA RADIO

1998. ***Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the number of Class I appointments carrying a pay of Rs. 750 and above, in the Engineering Section of the All-India Radio held by Muslims?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: None.

MUSLIMS AS STATION ENGINEERS IN ALL-INDIA RADIO

1999. ***Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the number of posts of Station Engineers in the Engineering Section of the All-India Radio and the number of such posts held by Muslims?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Out of 23 posts in the cadre of station engineers in All India Radio, one post is held by a Muslim

EXCLUSION OF INDIAN CHRISTIANS FROM COMBATANT RANKS OF INDIAN ARMY*.

1000. ***Dr. J. C. Chatterjee:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Indian Christians are at present excluded from Combatant Ranks in the Indian Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take to remove this discrimination against a section of Indian nationals, imposed on them on account of their religious belief?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) No, Sir Indian Christians are not excluded from Combatant Ranks in the Infantry Cavalry or Artillery. According to existing rules relating to Class Composition of the Army, Christians are enlisted as Madrassas or Assamese, if they come from Madras or Assam, and as Christians if they come from any other Province.

(b) The question does not arise.

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Is it a fact that up to now or till very recently that was so, that Indian Christians were not admitted into these ranks? Will the Honourable Member kindly make enquiries into the matter? I refer not to officer ranks but to combatant ranks, non-commissioned officers?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Why refer to the past? I have given a reply as regards the policy which the Government follow and propose to follow.

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Has the Honourable Member seen the Resolution that was passed at the Indian Christian conference on this subject?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: No, Sir.

*Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Will he kindly call for it because it was sent to the Government of India only a month ago, making representations on this very subject?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I will, Sir.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the definite Biblical injunction that the right cheek should be lent if the left is smitten, will the Government discourage Christians from entering the army?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: No, Sir

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, if the nomenclature of so called 'martial' and 'non-martial' classes has been removed so far as recruitment is concerned?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have repeatedly answered that there is no longer any distinction between martial and non-martial classes in this country, if ever there was any.

Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: In view of the fact that the doctrine of *Ahimsa* is incessantly preached by Mahatma Gandhi, will the Government consider the advisability of discouraging Hindus from joining the army?

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

EARNINGS OF FOREIGNERS IN INDIA

Mr. President: Question No 1001 Mr Vadilal Lallubhai I see the Honourable Member is not in the seat allotted to him. If he does, not put the question from the proper seat allotted to him, I won't allow the question to be put.

(Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai then occupied his proper seat.)

1001. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how much money out of the yearly earnings of foreigners in India has been sent out of India and how much of the same kept in India year by year from 1939 up to date?

(b) What amounts have been sent by Indians to foreign countries year by year out of their total yearly earnings from 1939 onwards?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) and (b). Government regret that the necessary statistics are not available.

REQUISITIONING OF LAND BELONGING TO PINJRAPOLE SOCIETY OF CALCUTTA BY WAR DEPARTMENT

1002. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 3,150 acres of land belonging to the Pinjrapole Society of Calcutta was requisitioned by the War Department of the Government of India through the Government of Bengal for the use of American troops for the duration of war or six months thereafter under rule 75 of the Defence of India Rules;

(b) whether the American troops have now released the land and the same has been returned to the authorities of the Pinjrapole Society; and

(c) if not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sir, on the assumption that the Honourable Member is referring to the Society's land at Kanchrapara.

(b) and (c). The American troops have left but the land is held by the Defence Department as under the post-war set-up of the Armed Forces it is possible that a permanent Cantonment may be established here. The Government of Bengal too have some Development Scheme in mind in this area.

The question was recently discussed with the representatives of the Bengal Government who have promised to make some amicable arrangement with the Society.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is no effort being made to provide the Pinjrapole with sufficient lands anywhere near the place which has been requisitioned?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I understand the lands of the Pinjrapole society are scattered in several places. The Government of Bengal are agreeable to allotting a suitable compact plot which would probably meet with the wishes of the society.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Did the Americans use the land in the same way as the Pinjrapole cattle were using it?

(No answer.)

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will this matter be placed before the de-requisitioning Board Calcutta which has been given authority to advise on such matters?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Certainly, Sir.

UNIFIED SCALES OF PAY FOR CLERKS IN ORDNANCE DEPOTS

1003. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state

(a) whether Government are aware that the unified scales of pay for clerks, sanctioned under Army Instructions (India) No. 676 of 1945 and No. 458 of 1946, have not been given effect to so far in a number of Ordnance depots while the same were introduced in certain others immediately after they were sanctioned,

(b) whether Government are aware that some Depot authorities insist upon compulsory execution of the liability bond (LAF Z-2055) as a condition precedent to the election of the unified scale of pay,

(c) whether the execution of the said Army Bond is entirely optional and a separate allowance is granted therefor,

(d) whether it is a fact that in spite of the instructions from G. H. Q. (I) on the subject the staff of the Ordnance depots and Inspectorates not governed by the Factories Act, is required to work in excess of the hours specified in the Regulations for the Army Ordnance Service, India Part I,

(e) whether it is a fact that the Labour Reduction Review Committee sanctioned by the War Department in 1945, has not yet been constituted in any of the Ordnance establishments, if so, the reasons therefor,

(f) whether Government are aware that almost all Ordnance Depots and Inspectorates are over officered and that the number of officers has not decreased in proportion to the decrease in work; and

(g) whether Government have received a memorandum dated 28th Jan. '47 from the representatives of the Ordnance employees, if so, what steps if any, the Government have taken to meet the demands contained therein?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) A.I. (I) 676/45.—So far as Government are aware the unified scale of pay sanctioned in this A.I. (I) is in operation in all Ordnance Depots.

A.I. (I) 458/46.—So far as Government are aware the provisions of this A.I. (I) are in operation in all Ordnance Depots. Certain special individual cases still remain to be decided. Decisions will be reached shortly and intimated to all concerned.

(b) Yes, Sir. The execution of the bond is obligatory on all rank clerks.

(c) As already stated the execution of the bond is obligatory. In fact an addition to the common scale of pay is paid on execution of the bond which makes the clerk liable to serve on an "All India" basis.

(d) Government have no information to show that the orders issued by General-Headquarters in regard to working hours in Ordnance Depots, etc., are not being observed.

(e) Labour reduction review Committees have been introduced into all except three Ordnance Establishments. Orders have been issued that they should be introduced in these three Establishments also immediately.

(f) No, Sir. Officer Establishments are under continuous review in relation to work load.

(g) Yes, Sir. The memorandum has been received and is under consideration of Government.

BAN ON CONSTRUCTIONS IN GANDHI NAGAR COLONY

1004. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Secretary of the Health Department be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the existence of a small colony named "Gandhi Nagar" with a population of 6,000 on the other side of the river Jamuna?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India has banned all further constructions in this area?

(c) In view of the scarcity of houses in Delhi, do Government propose to lift the ban on constructions in this locality?

(d) Considering the nearness of this Nagar to the city, do Government propose to encourage the development of this Nagar?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: (a) Yes

(b) and (c) The colony lies within the area which was declared in August 1946 to be a controlled area under the Delhi Restriction of Uses of Land Act. Construction of buildings in this area is now subject to the provisions of the Act. Government do not consider it desirable to remove this control which is necessary to prevent unplanned ribbon development.

(d) The Delhi Improvement Trust will be asked to consider the question of development of this area.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the intention of the Government to provide the usual municipal facilities for this area?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: Yes, Sir, when the area has developed the usual municipal services will be provided.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the services that are being provided at present except restrictions?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: None, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that they are paying taxes?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: I want notice.

Mr. Munshi Subedar: If a party has the land and if he has the money and he has an intention to build upon it, why should not Government go into the question and give him permission to build and thereby encourage the development of this area, instead of putting a ban on him under certain law?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: I think there is a misunderstanding there. When this control is enforced, the result is that a person wishing to build within a quarter of a mile of the road has to apply for permission to do so and if there is no objection, permission is given.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

APPOINTMENT OF DR. R. E. MORTIMER WHEELER AS DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

83. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state

(a) the circumstances leading to the appointment of Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler as the Director-General of Archaeology in India, on the retirement of late Rao Bahadur K N Dikshit and the policy underlying this appointment, and

(b) whether it is a fact that he was released from the military duties to take up this post?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler was appointed Director General of Archaeology in April 1944 for a term of four years. The circumstances of his appointment were stated by the then Member-in-Charge in the Assembly on 21st February, 1944 in reply to parts (b) and (d) of starred question No. 148 and part (h) of starred question No. 159. As the term of his appointment is due to expire on the 23rd April, 1948, I do not think any useful purpose would be served by going into the question now.

(b) Yes

QUALIFICATIONS OF DR. WHEELER ON APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR GENERAL, ARCHAEOLOGY

84. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state.

(a) the qualifications of Dr. Wheeler, which made him eligible for the post;

(b) whether Dr. Wheeler possessed any previous experience of Indian Archaeology (Epigraphy, Numismatics, Sculptures, Paintings, etc.) if so, what; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the claims of a better qualified senior Indian Officer of the Department were ignored in appointing Dr. Wheeler?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in the Legislative Assembly to starred question No. 148, on the 21st February, 1944 and to the supplementaries.

(c) Government are satisfied that none of the officers then within the field of selection had the necessary range of knowledge and experience of modern technique and methods of Archaeological excavations, preservation of ancient monuments and museum organisation, which were required of the Director General of Archaeology.

VISITS OF DR. WHEELER TO IRAN

85. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Dr. Wheeler visited Iran with a big staff of the Archaeological Department; if so, for what purpose?

(b) Was his Mission concerned in any way with the Indian Archaeology; if so, what was the benefit which resulted from his tour?

(c) What was the cost of this tour to the Indian Exchequer?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) An Indian Mission consisting of Dr. Wheeler, the Director General of Archaeology and Dr. Mohammad Nazim, a Senior officer in the Archaeological Survey of India, visited Iran in 1945 at the invitation of the Iranian Government. In regard to the purpose of the visit, attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 16th November, 1946 to the section (b) of Starred Question No. 687

(b) Yes; it is desirable that an expert in Northern Indian Archaeology should have an intimate knowledge of both the pre-historic and historic archaeology of Iran. Many useful contacts were established in the course of the visit.

(c) An expenditure of only about Rs 1,500 was met by the Government of India, the other expenses having been borne by the Government of Iran.

**EXCAVATION WORKS UNDERTAKEN SINCE DR. WHEELER'S APPOINTMENT AS
DIRECTOR GENERAL, ARCHAEOLOGY.**

86. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state.

(a) whether any excavation work was taken up since Dr. Wheeler took charge of the post of Director General of Archaeology, if so, when and where;

(b) the cost of each excavation and the cultural results thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that an Excavations Training Camp was started at Taxila;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement on the training work done in the camp giving the names and qualifications of the trainees and trainers,

(e) the expenditure incurred on this Training Camp, and

(f) whether it is a fact that all excavations in the Archaeological Department were stopped since 1931, and if so, the reasons for incurring this expenditure during the War?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (c) and (b). Three excavation works were taken up and the information asked for is as follows—

(i) in 1944 at Taxila, Punjab—cost Rs 52,604 (including all the incidental cost of a training school for research students from the Indian Universities),

(ii) in 1945 near Pondicherry, South India—cost Rs 28,000 (including necessary expenditure on attached students),

(iii) in 1946 at Harappa, Punjab—cost Rs 33,414 (including necessary expenditure on attached students)

The Taxila excavations were run primarily as a training school and attracted students from nearly all the Universities in India. From these students, a selection has since been made for recruitment to the Department. The excavations were of additional importance as the first conducted in India on modern scientific lines, and were designed to set a general standard for such work.

The excavations in South India for the first time established a chronological datum for an ancient South Indian culture by identifying it with dated imported materials.

The excavations at Harappa have extensively modified and supplemented the conclusions drawn from the earlier Indus Valley excavations, and will be fully published within the next few months.

(c) and (d). As stated above, a training camp was established at Taxila. Only students specially recommended by the Vice-Chancellors of their Universities were admitted to the training school at Taxila. In addition there were official delegates from States and reputable public institutions. The trainers included the Director General Mr. G. A. Casey (a field-archaeologist of long and approved experience), together with the Archaeological Chemist, the Government Epigraphist and other members of the Departmental staff. A list showing the names and qualifications of the trainees is laid on the table of the House. In a few cases where the students were deputed by States or

other Government institutions the qualifications have not been shown against

(e) Separate figures of expenditure are not available but it is included in the figure of Rs 52,604 which represents the cost for the excavation work at Taxila.

(f) No. The excavations mentioned in the reply to part (a) were preceded by more costly excavations extending down to 1943-44.

Statement showing the names and qualifications of students in the Archaeological Training Camp at Taxila

Name	Qualification
1. Achan, P. Anujan	(Recommended by Government of Cochin)
2. Dr. A. Aiyappan	
3. Saiyid Mohsin Amir	B.A., C.T.
4. Bijpal, Krishna Datta	M.A. in Ancient Indian History
5. B. K. S. Krishnappa Gnanasham	B.A., LL.B.
6. Balvir, Harishwar Narsin	M.A. in History
7. Binorji, Prasanta Kumar	M.A. in History.
8. Banerji, Priyatosh	M.A. with Epigraphy.
9. Banerji Sivadas	M.A. in Ancient Indian History
10. Bhattacharya, Asoke Kumar	M.A. (Epigraphy & History).
11. Bhanot, Surin Das	M.A.
12. Bose, Himansu Kumar	M.Sc.
13. Chandri, Sukesh Chandra	M.A. in Ancient Indian History
14. Chaudhuri, Sashi Bhushan	M.A. in History (First Class)
15. Dani, Ahmed Hasan	M.A. (Ancient Indian History) - B.A. with Sanskrit.
16. Das, Gopi Nath	M.A. in Ancient Indian History.
17. Das, Sudhramanj	M.A. in Ancient Indian History and Anthropology.
18. Deshpande, Madhusudan Narhar	B.A. Hon's. in Archaeology.
19. Dikshit, Moreshwar Gangadhar	Ph.D. (History).
20. Dikshit, Sadanand K.	M.A.
21. Dwiwedi, Sree Mohan	M.A. in Sanskrit.
22. Gadre, A. S.	(Recommended by Director of Archaeology, Bombay).
23. Gahlot Kunwar Mahavir Singh	M.A.
24. Ganguly, Kalyan Kumar	M.A. in Ancient Indian History.
25. Gaswami, Kunja Govind	M.A.
26. Guha, Devaprasad	M.A. in Path
27. Gyani, R. Nehhodul Ghanshyamlal	M.A.
28. Iyengar, K. Narayana	M.A. Degree Examination Mysore University.
29. Jain Moti Chand	M.A. in History.
30. Kala, Satish Chandra	M.A. in Ancient Indian History
31. Karmarkar, Anant Prashram	M.A., Ph.D.
32. Khan, Fazl Ahmed	M.A.
33. Lal, Braj Basi	M.A. in Sanskrit.
34. Majumdar, Prabhas Ch.	M.A. (Path).
35. Mathur, Girish Chandra	B.A.
36. Mathur, Vijendra Kumar	M.A. in Ancient Indian History.

Name	Qualification
37. Mishra, Lakshmi Nath	M.A. History.
38. Mishra, Sadhu Charan	B.A.
39. Mookerji, Ajit Kumar	M.A. (London) in History, also completed M.A. in Ancient Indian History and culture with fine Arts & Archaeology at the Cal. University.
40. Mukherjee, Ushendu Narayan	M.A. in Ancient Indian History.
41. Nandurbarker, Dattatroya Pandurang	M.A. with Palaeography.
42. Naqvi, Syed Ashfaq Ahmad	B.A. (Hons.), M.A. (Persian), LL.B. (Previous)
43. Nath, Vishwendra	B.A. (Agrs).
44. Fatil, Davendra Kumar Rajaram	B.A. (Hons.), M.A. in Ancient Indian History, Ph.D.
45. Pillai, V. R. Parameswaran	Oriental Title Exam. Vidvan. (Travancore State).
46. Puri, Baij Nath	M.A. in Ancient Indian History.
47. Ragh Gopal	B.Sc., LL.B.
48. Rath, Purna Chandra	B.A., B.Ed.
49. Saksena, Dhirendra Narain	B.A.
50. S. Jotora, Gopalakrishna Narayan	M.A. in Ancient Indian History, Ph.D.
51. Sarkar, Krishna Chandra	Surveyor & Draftsmanship Exam.
52. Sarkar, Sankar Sekar	M.Sc. (Anthropology), worked in Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology Berlin
53. Sastri, Kidar Nath	M.A.
54. Sengupta, Mahendranath	
55. Shah, Zainulabidin	B.A. with Mathematics.
56. Shakur, M.A.	M.A.
57. Sharma, Man Mohan Lal	M.A. (History)
58. Shastri, Uday Shankar	Shastri, Kavyatirtha.
59. Siddique, Ghulam Abbas	B.A. (Punjab)
60. Singh, Har Charan	M.A. (Epigraphy).
61. Tansar, Balkrishan	M.A. with Ancient Indian History.
62. Vyas, Akshaykoorti	M.A., B.A. (Hons.).

CREATION OF POST OF JOINT DIRECTOR GENERAL, ARCHAEOLOGY.

87. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state if it is a fact that a post of Joint Director-General of Archaeology in India has been created, if so on what grounds?

(b) What are the functions of this newly created post?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) and (b). The answer to the first part of part (a) of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part of part (a) and part (b) of the question, the Hon'ble Member is referred to the replies given on the 8th April 1946 to parts (c) and (d) of starred question No. 1653 and on the 16th November, 1946 to parts (b) and (c) of starred question No. 656, respectively.

POST OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLICATION IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT

88. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state whether a post of Superintendent of Publications has been sanctioned by Government in the Archaeological Survey Department?

(b) Is it a fact that all the publications of the Archaeological Department including Annual Reports, Memoirs, Epigraphica Indica, Epigraphica-moslemica have been suspended for a long time?

(c) Are Government aware that Epigraphica Indica and Epigraphica Indo-moslemica are published by the Epigraphist to Government?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes

(b) Publications of the Archaeological Survey of India, like many other Government publications, were suspended during the war and have now been resumed with the improved supply of paper

(c) 'Epigraphica Indica' and 'Epigraphica Indo-moslemica' are published by the Archaeological Survey of India and not by the Government Epigraphist.

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF DR. WHEELER AS DIRECTOR OF MUSEUMS

89. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state whether Government propose to appoint Dr. Mortimer Wheeler as the Director of Museums on the expiry of his term as Director General of Archaeology? If so, for what reasons?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Government have no such proposal before them at present. As a matter of fact the question of the appointment of the Director of the National Museum of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology cannot be taken up until the details of the scheme have been worked out.

ENQUIRY INTO THE WORKING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

90. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: (a) Will the Honourable Member* for Education please lay on the table of the House a list of publications excepting official reports, by the officers of the Department of the Archaeological Survey of India since their appointment in the Department?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing a non-official committee to enquire into the working of this department?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given on the 20th March, 1942 to starred questions Nos. 218 and 224 in regard to the papers published up to that date by the officers of the Archaeological Survey of India. A list of the papers published subsequently is laid on the table.

(b) Government have already two bodies with a majority of non-official members who advise them in regard to the working of this Department, viz., the Standing Committee of the Legislature and the Central Advisory Bureau of Archaeology. It is therefore not considered to appoint another committee to enquire into the working of the Department.

Statement

* 1 Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler, Director General

(a) "Atkamedu" published in *Ancient India*, No. 2, 1946

(b) "Archaeological Planning for India: Some of the Factors" published in the *Proceedings of the 4th India Science Congress*, 1946, and in *Ancient India*, No. 2

(c) *Archaeology in India to day* published by Calcutta University, 1946

(d) "Urampatanam" published in the *Journal of the Greater India Society*, XI (1945).

(e) "Harappa 194", published in *Ancient India*, No. 3 (in the press)

2 Dr. N. P. Chakravarti, Joint Director General.

(a) "Epigraphy and Anthropology" in *proceedings of the Science Congress*, 1943

3. Mr. A. Ghosh, Superintendent of Publications.

- (a) "The Age of Kalachuri Imperialism in India": published in *Culture*, Vol. VII, No. 1.
- (b) "The Kalachuris of Southern Kosala": published in D. R. Bhandarkar Commemoration Volume.
- (c) "Two Mohari Seals from Nalanda": published in *Epigraphia Indica*, Vol. XXIV.
- (d) "The pottery of Ahichhatra—Introduction": published in *Ancient India*, No. 1.
- (e) "Seals of an unknown dynasty from Nalanda": published in the *Indian Historical Quarterly*.
- (f) "Nalanda Seals of Budha Gupta and Vishnu Gupta": published in the *Indian Historical Quarterly*.
- (g) "Coins of Varunamitra from Ahichhatra": published in the *Journal of the Numismatic Society of India*.
- (h) "A Bronze Image Inscription from Nalanda": published in *Epigraphia Indica*, XXV.
- (i) "A Buddhist Tract in a stone inscription in the Cuttack Museum": published in the *Epigraphia Indica*, XXVI.
- (j) "A Nalanda Copper Plate of Samudra Gupta": published in *Epigraphia Indica*, XXV.
- (k) "The Date of the Pandava Kings of Southern Kosala": published in *Epigraphia Indica*, XXV.
- (l) "The Karpada Image Inscription of Subhakaradeva": published in *Epigraphia Indica*, XXVI.

4. Mr. T. N. Ramchandran, Superintendent, Southern Circle

- (a) "Recent Archeological Discoveries along the Mamamati and Lalmai Ranges, Tippera District East Bengal": published in *E. C. Law Vol. Pt II*, 1946

5. Mr. K. R. Srinivasan, Assistant Superintendent

- (a) Pudukottai Inscriptions: Published by the Pudukottai State
- (b) "The Megalithic Burials and Urn-fields of South India in the light of Tamil Literature and Tradition": published in *Ancient India*, No. 2

6. Mr. V. D. Krishnaswami, Assistant Superintendent (Pre-history)

- (a) "Stone Age India": in *Ancient India* No. 3, (in the press)

7. Mr. S. A. A. Naqvi, Assistant Superintendent, Delhi Circle

- (a) "Guide to Humayun's Tomb and adjacent buildings": (in the press)
- (b) "Sultan Ghari", in *Ancient India*, No. 3 (in the press)

8. Mr. Krishnadeva, Assistant Superintendent

- (a) "Kosam Inscription of Bhadramagha year 81" }
- (b) "Nalanda Seal of Vishnugupta" } Published in *Epigraphia Indica*
- (c) "Rajghat Copper plate of Govindachandra" }
- (d) "Excavations at Rajghat": published in *Bibliography of Indian History and Indology*, 1942
- (e) "Coin-devices on Rajghat Seals": published in the *Journal of Numismatic Society of India*.

9. Dr. V. S. Agiawala, Assistant Superintendent in charge of Museums Branch

- (a) "Gupta Art—a study": published in the *Journal of the U. P. Historical Society*, Panna Lal Special Number, February, 1947.
- (b) "Jaunpur Brick Inscription": Published in the *Journal of the U. P. Historical Society*, Panna Lal special Number
- (c) "Silver Punch marked coins of the masaka type": published in the *Journal of the Numismatic Society of India* (in the press).
- (d) "A note on the Patna Copper Band with Punch-marked symbols": published in the *Journal of the Numismatic Society of India* (in the press).
- (e) "Food and Drink in Panini's Ashtadhyayi": published in the *Journal of the Gangwanath Jha Institute Journal* (in the press).
- (f) "Current Proper names in the Ashtadhyayi and Ancient Sunga Inscriptions": published in the *Dharat-Kaumudi* (in the press)
- (g) "A note on the Parasika Oil in Sanskrit Literature": submitted for *Ancient India*

PROMOTION OF 'SPECIAL STUDIES' IN EDUCATION.

91. Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Honourable Member for Education be pleased to state:

(a) what is meant by the promotion of special studies in education as mentioned in item 4 of the list of subjects under the Education Department in the Legislative Assembly circular No. XCVII dated 6th Dec. 1946;

(b) what has been done so far in this regard and whether Government have any scheme therefor, and

(c) whether workers' education falls within "special studies" in education, if so, whether Government have any scheme for its promotion, if not, why not?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The item referred to by the Honourable Member is intended to cover a special educational problems that may arise from time to time such as Scientific Terminologies for Indian languages, a common Braille for the blind in India; Social and Recreative activities, new techniques of training and assessment of attainments, etc.

(b) A number of such special studies, including those mentioned in part (a) has already been undertaken by the Government of India. A Central Bureau of Psychology has been set up in India to make a study of certain important problems relating to education, such as improvement of the present examination system, methods of selection for the various stages of education, vocational guidance, etc. The question of the establishment of a Central Bureau for Blind Welfare and a Central Institute for Social Service and Public Administration is also under consideration.

(c) Yes. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Chapters on Adult Education and Recreative and Social Activities in the Report by the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post-War Educational Development in India, which has been accepted by the Government of India.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

INCONVENIENCE TO TOURISTS AND TRAVELLERS AT SHOW PLACES IN INDIA

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) whether the attention of Government been drawn to correspondence in the *Statesman* of the 6th March 1947 regarding inconvenience to
12 Noon tourists and travellers at various show places in India?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the plan or programme of establishing a Tourist Department, which will create special facilities to attract tourists from all over the world to see the show places in India?

(c) Do Government propose to examine the possibility of setting up hotels for and in connection with the railway system at some of these places for the convenience both of travellers and of tourists?

(d) Have Government any estimate of the number of tourist travellers, who were coming to India before the war in normal times, and of the approximate amount of money, which they were spending in this country on (i) travelling, (ii) other purposes?

(e) Will Government make a statement of their policy on this subject?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have received the interim report submitted by the Tourist Traffic Committee which was appointed by the Government in 1945 with Sir John Sargent as the Chairman for the purpose of investigating the possibilities of developing tourist traffic in India. The report recommends *inter alia* the formation of an Indian Tourist Organisation, an autonomous body of a semi official nature, enjoying the confidence of the Central Government, Provincial

Governments and the Indian States. The final report of the Tourist Traffic Committee is awaited, but in the meantime Government are considering what interim action should be taken.

(c) Yes, but no final decision has been reached. Some localities are fairly adequately equipped with facilities for tourists while in some others provision of such amenities by authorities other than railways, might be more appropriate.

(d) No.

(e) While Government consider that the first task before the Railways must be to provide facilities for rail travel in India, in principle they favour the earliest possible development of tourist traffic with, however, due regard to the food and transport situations.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Having regard to the need of attracting foreigners to this country to see the great places here and also incidentally drawing some money, will Government ask this Committee to expedite their report and also examine whether an In-tourist Company as a State venture should be put up or whether it should be done by private enterprise or by subsidised private enterprise?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will consider the Honourable Member's suggestion that the report of the Tourist Traffic Committee should be expedited. But in the meantime, as I stated in my reply, we in the Railway Department are considering setting up an interim organisation for making the necessary preliminary surveys.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the food shortage and the railway bottleneck to which the Railway Member himself referred, will Government consider the advisability of deferring action for the next two or three years until this crisis is over?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is a matter that deserves to be considered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government also consider with the Ministry of Communications whether the benefit of air communication should also not be given and linked up so that a party may have an all-in comprehensive facility for such a tour as he may select out of many which are offered to him, and whether the Civil Aviation Department should also not partake in the earliest formative stage with the proposals which are being made?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The Tourist Traffic Committee under the chairmanship of Sir John Sargent is an inter-departmental committee besides consisting of non-officials in which the Communications Department is represented.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

[INFORMATION PROMISED IN REPLIES TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS—LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE—TODAY].

Seth Sukhdev's Unstarred Question No 214 of 12th April, 1946.

Number of demobilised Military Officers taken in civil employment under the Central Government during the period 1st October 1945 to 31st March, 1946, is 700 approximately.

Mr K. C. Neogy's Starred Question No 32 [Parts (a) to (c) and (e)] of 28th October, 1946

EFFECT IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT AS A RESULT OF COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN PROVINCES.

(a) During the period from the 16th August, 1946 to the 28th October, 1946 the following local areas in the respective Provinces were affected by communal disturbances:—
Calcutta and Dacca.—Bengal Presidency.
Allahabad and Agra.—United Provinces.

Sylhet—Assam.

Ahmedabad, Bombay and Sangamner—Bombay Presidency.

Amraoti and Saur—Central Provinces.

The activities of the P. & T. Department in these Provinces were affected in consequence of the communal disturbances in that there were heavy absences in the various P. & T. Offices. There was considerable dislocation and suspension of work. A number of post offices had to be closed down temporarily. Deliveries of telegrams were inordinately delayed and the scheduled despatches of mails in the riot affected areas had to be curtailed. Installations of new telephone connections and rectification of faults found in the existing ones were hampered. Supply of telegraph stores for works in progress was cut off.

(b) Yes, Considerable damage and loss has been done to the property belonging to the P. and T. Department as a result of arson and looting. The extent of loss due to the communal disturbances for the period under review amounted to Rs 1,769-2-0 in cash and postage stamps. In one case in Dacca two registered letters in the custody of a delivery postman are also reported to have been lost.

(c) Yes, Particulars of casualties in the riot affected areas Province by Province are as under:—

	Killed	Injured	Missing
Bengal	7	27	1
Assam			
Bombay	1	1	
C. P.		1	
Total	8	31	1

(e) The measure of the protection afforded by the local authorities in each place affected by the communal disturbances varied from Province to Province.

In Bengal, according to reports received police protection does not appear to have been afforded to departmental property or personnel in each place in the disturbed zones.

In Assam police protection was not afforded.

In the United Provinces, police and military pickets were posted at strategic points particularly in Allahabad but no special arrangements for the protection of P. & T. offices were made.

In Bombay, police protection was provided wherever a specific requisition was made by the Department. An armed Police guard was also made available for the city mail motor. Police resources were strained to the utmost due to their pre-occupation in riot areas and so police assistance was not sought unless considered absolutely essential and unavoidable.

In the Central Provinces police assistance was invariably available on requisition.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh's Starred Questions Nos. 134 and 137 of 31st October, 1946

APPOINTMENT OF MR. P. M. GLOVER AS ENTOMOLOGIST IN INDIA LAC RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

No 134—

(a) The Committee did direct that the post should be advertised both in England and in India. It has not been possible to ascertain whether the post was advertised in India or not.

(b) There is no evidence that there was any contravention of the directions of the Committee.

(c) Yes

(d) Mr. Glover's application contains no reference to his experience and knowledge of

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE
105 1 3 1
REPAYMENT OF LOAN TAKEN BY MR GLOVER

2041

No 137—

(a) (i) Yes

(ii) Yes

(iii) The whole of the principal of the loan was repaid by him by 15th November, 1944

(iv) A sum of Rs 21640 as interest on the loan is still outstanding which has not been paid in spite of several reminders

(v) Mr Glover applied for the advance on account of urgent private family reasons and to tide over financial difficulties and the loan was granted to him on these grounds. It later transpired that he had invested the amount in war bonds and steps were taken to recover the loan from him at once

(b) The irregularity of investing the loan in war bond was pointed out to him and his action was treated as amounting to misconduct. The question of taking disciplinary action will be considered when he rejoins the service of the Committee

Mr K C Neogy's Unstarred Question No 73 of 13th November 1946,

EFFECT OF COMMUNAL RIOTS IN NOAKHALI AND TIPPERAH IN BENGAJI ON THE
ACTIVITIES OF CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENT

(a) In the Chandpur Circle comprising the district of Tipperah four Ranges ceased functioning temporarily as their headquarters had to be shifted to safer places during the worst period of the disturbances. All the Ranges in the Circle began working again soon after. Documents in one Range only were lost. Practically all the 21 Ranges in the Noakhali Circle stopped working during the disturbances and 14 were seriously affected although no documents were lost. Some of the Hindu Range Officers left their Ranges to remove their families to places of safety after transferring the office records to less disturbed neighbouring Ranges.

There were no casualties among the Central Excise staff

(b) A loss in revenue amounting to Rs 25 only has been reported due to looting of 44 maunds of betelnut from a warehouse at Sonamuri. How and to what extent the collection of Central Excise revenue will be affected have yet to be seen

(c) The following staff were posted to the Noakhali and Chandpur Circles —

	Noakhali	Chandpur
(i) Superintendent	1	1
(b) Deputy Superintendent	3	2
(iii) Inspector	28	26
(iv) Supervisor	4	3
(v) 'B' grade clerk	2	2
(vi) 'C' grade clerk	5	5
(vii) Jamadar	1	3
(viii) Peon	32	31

The number of Ranges that continued to function is indicated in (a) above

No reports about the disturbances appear to have been made by the staff in these areas, except a verbal report by the Assistant Collector Dacca on 21st October 1946. The Collector himself issued telegraphic orders on the 17th October (from his camp in South Orissa) to withdraw staff and records from the worst affected areas and to give all possible help in restoring orders and relief work. These orders were relayed by the Circle Officer Noakhali on 19th October, but by then communications in the district were badly damaged. In response to a telegraphic request for details, reports were made by the Circle Officers, Chandpur and Noakhali.

Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala's Starred Question No. 655 of 16th November 1946

INCOME-TAX ON TOTAL PROFITS OF STERLING AND DOLLAR COMPANIES IN INDIA

(a) A list is attached

(b) In view of section 54 of the Indian Income-tax Act it is not possible to disclose the names of companies whose British Indian profits exceeded their foreign profits. But the number of such companies, so far as it is known, on the basis of completed income tax assessments was 97 in 1943-44, 98 in 1944-45 and 84 in 1945-46

(c) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative.

(d) Yes, returns under section 19A were called for in almost all cases.

(e) The returns were received in a few cases. Most of the Indian offices of the companies concerned were unable to submit the returns as they had no excess to the registers of shareholders which were maintained abroad. It is not therefore possible to give the precise number of shareholders who were in receipt of dividends amounting to Rs. 25,000 or more

(f) Yes, in some cases the non-resident shareholders were assessed but the collection of tax had to be postponed because of an appeal pending before the Privy Council. The amount of super tax assessed in these cases is about Rs. 25 Lakhs

(g) No prosecution was lodged as the individuals concerned were outside the pale of British Indian laws as they now stand

List of Sterling and Dollar companies carrying on business in British India

- 1 The Cawnpore Electric Supply Company Ltd, Cawnpore
- 2 The West Patent Press, Ltd, Aligarh
- 3 The Toonharrie Tea Company Limited, Jalpaiguri
- 4 De Havilland Air Craft Company Ltd
- 5 East India Tramways Company Ltd
- 6 Baluchistan Chrome Company Ltd
- 7 Cable and Wireless Mid East Company Limited
- 8 Asiatic Petroleum Co. (India) Ltd
- 9 Anglo-Burmese Oil Co. (India) Ltd
- 10 Burma Oil Co., (India Trading) Ltd
- 11 Burma-Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Co., of India Ltd
- 12 Ralli Brothers Ltd
- 13 Central Provinces Manganese Ore Co., Ltd, Nagpur
- 14 Attock Oil Company Ltd, Rawalpindi
- 15 The Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Co., Ltd, Delhi
- 16 The Barsi Light Railway Company Ltd., Kurlawadi,
- 17 Duamara Tea Co. Ltd
- 18 Assam Oil Company Ltd
- 19 Assam Railway and Trading Co., Ltd
- 20 Assam Co., Ltd
- 21 Bhubhrigat Tea Co., Ltd
- 22 Desmoche Tea Co., Ltd
- 23 Doon Dooma Tea Co., Ltd
- 24 Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd
- 25 Pabbajan Tea Co., Ltd,
- 26 Rupai Tea Co., Ltd
- 27 Tara Tea Co., Ltd
- 28 Mangles Bros Coorg Coffee Estates Limited, Somwarpet.
- 29 Elk Hill Coffee Estates Ltd, Siddapur.
- 30 Tattersfield Co., Ltd.
- 31 Standard Vacuum Oil Co.
- 32 Wallace Bros. and Co. Ltd
33. David Sassoon & Co., Ltd

34. Sizing Materials Ltd.
35. The Eastern Chemical Co., Ltd.
36. Messrs. Duncan Stewart Co., Ltd.
37. Messrs. Glenfield & Kennedy Ltd.
38. The Western Electric Co., Ltd.
39. Warner Bros 1st National Pic Inc.
40. Warner Bros. as agents to Warner Bros, 1st National Pic. Inc, London.
41. Warner Bros. as agents to Warner Bros, 1st National Pic. Inc. New York.
42. Warner Bros as agents to Vitaphone, New York.
43. Universal Pictures India Ltd, as agents to Universal Pictures Corporation Inc.
44. Candles India Ltd
45. Cementation, Co., Ltd
46. Lintas Ltd,
47. Pinchin Johnson & Coy. Ltd.
48. Asea Electric Ltd
49. (Jackie & Son (India) Ltd, Scotland
50. Burnes Co, Ltd., London.
51. British Burma Petroleum Co., Ltd.
52. Butterworth & Coy (India). Ltd
53. Card Clothing & Belting Ltd
54. C & J. Hampton Ltd
55. Cannon Co., Ltd
56. C W Chaney & Sons Ltd
57. Elkeman's Wilson Lino Ltd.
58. Henry Simon Ltd, Manchester
59. International Correspondence Schools (Overseas Ltd).
60. Louis Dreyfus & Co Ltd
61. Lassen Ltd
62. Rylands & Sons (Overseas) Ltd.
63. Rowntree & Co, Ltd
64. Sun Shipping Co., Ltd, London.
65. Spicers (Export) Ltd,
66. Saint Line Ltd.
67. Spurrer Glazebrook & Co, Ltd
68. Siemens Electric Lamps & Supplies Ltd
69. Thomas Hardman & Sons Ltd.
70. Twyford's Limited.
71. Williamson & Co., (Rochdale) Ltd.
72. Wright Layman & Umney Ltd.
73. William Collins Sons & Co., Ltd., Glasgow
74. Army & Navy Stores Ltd
75. British Drug House Ltd.
76. British Tabulating Machine Co., Ltd.
77. Consolidated Pneumatic Tools Co., Ltd.
78. Chloride Electrical Storage Co. (India) Ltd
79. Charles Walker & Co., Ltd
80. English Electric Co., Ltd
81. Eadie Bros. & Co., Ltd.
82. English Card Clothing Co., Ltd.
83. International Business Machines Corp of New York
84. May & Baker Ltd., London.
85. Pilkington Brothers Ltd.
86. Richardson Tsur & Co., Ltd.

87. Welcome Foundation Ltd.
88. Wilson Brothers Brothers, Bobbin Co., Ltd
89. The Anchor Line Ltd.
90. The British Institute of Engl Tech. Ltd, London
91. Messrs. Cair & Co., Ltd.
92. The Central Agency Ltd.
93. The English Sewing Cotton Co, Ltd
94. The Grahms Trading Co, (India) Ltd.
95. Johnson and Phillips, Ltd
96. J. & P. Coats, Ltd.
97. Kirk & Co, (Blackburn) Ltd
98. Macmillan & Co., Ltd
99. Millar's Timber Trading Co, Ltd.
100. Mirless Bickerton & Day Ltd
101. Reuters Ltd.
102. Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp, New York
103. Thomas Cook & Sons (Bankers) Ltd
105. Br Crown Life Assurance Co, Ltd.
106. Crown Life Insurance Co, Ltd
107. La Concorde Insurance Co of Paris
108. L'Union Fire Insurance Co, Ltd.
109. Swiss National Insurance Co, Ltd
110. Scottish Metropolitan Life Assurance Co, Ltd.
111. Balaise Fire Insurance Co, Ltd.
112. Essex & Suffolk Equitable Insurance Co., Ltd.
113. Gresham Life Assurance Co., Ltd.
114. Great Eastern Life Assurance Co., Ltd.,
115. Helvetia Swiss Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
116. Legal & General Assurance Co, Ltd.
117. Mftrs Life Assurance Co., Ltd.
118. National Mutual Life Association of Australia.
119. Provincial Insurance Co., Ltd.
120. Scottish Insurance Corp. Ltd.
121. Tanaho Marine & Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
122. Yorkshire Insurance Co., Ltd.
123. Eagle Star Insurance Co., Ltd.
124. Motor Union Insurance Co., Ltd.
125. Messrs. Adrema Ltd.
126. Agfa Photo Ltd.
127. Holland Bombay Trading.
128. Trading Co. Late Hegt. & Co., Ltd.
129. American Express Co., Ltd.
130. Bombay Gas Co., Ltd.
131. Eastern Bank Ltd
132. Lloyds Bank Ltd.
133. Maritime Insurance Co., Ltd.
134. Norwich Union Life Assurance Co., Ltd.
135. National Employers Mutual Life Association Ltd.
136. Sun Life Insurance Co of Canada.
137. General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Co., Ltd.
138. Bagbie Phillips & Haylay.
139. Evans Medical Supplies Ltd

140. Longmans Green & Co., Ltd.
141. Whipple & Sons, Ltd.
142. The Anglo Thai Corporation Ltd.
143. Banco National Ultra Marino.
144. Bank of Ceylon.
145. Blundell Spence & Co., Ltd.
146. Comptoir National D'Escompte De Paris.
147. Cox & Kings (Insurance) Ltd.
148. F. F. Christien & Co., Ltd.
149. Nederlands Indische Handels Bank.
150. National City Bank of New York.
151. Public Utilities Investment Co., Ltd.
152. Assa Lees & Co., Ltd. (through Indian Textiles Eng. Ltd.).
153. British Colloids Ltd.
154. British and Dominion Film Productions Ltd. (through United Artists Corp.)
155. Cox & Kings (Agents) Ltd.
156. Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Manchester.
157. Dobson & Barlow Ltd (through Indian Textile Engineers Ltd.).
158. E. Green & Co., Ltd.
159. Gratton & Knight, Ltd.
160. Howard & Bullough Ltd. (through Indian Textile Engineers Ltd.).
161. John Hetherington & Co., Ltd. (through Indian Textile Engineers Ltd.).
162. London Films Productions (through United Artists Corporation Ltd.).
163. National Aniline & Chemical Co., Ltd.
164. Platt Bros. & Co., Ltd. (through Indian Textile Engineers Ltd.).
165. Parke Davis & Co., Ltd.
166. Tweedales & Samlley Ltd.
167. Textile Machinery Makers Ltd. (through Indian Textile Engineers Ltd.).
168. Turner & Newall, Ltd.
169. Turner Bros Asbestos Co., Ltd.
170. United Artists Corporation Agents to Alexandra Korda Film Productions Ltd.
171. International Chemical Ltd.
172. John Wyth & Bros. Ltd.
173. United Artists Corporation—Agents to Pendemis Pictures Ltd.
174. United Artists Corporation—Agents to Alexandra Korda Film Incorporated (Dollar).
175. R. K. O. Radios Pictures Inc
176. Khongca Tea Estates Ltd.
177. Doorn Tea Co., Ltd.
178. Pathini Tea Co., Ltd.,
179. Surma Valley Tea Co., Ltd.
180. Scottish Assam Tea Co., Ltd.
181. Derby Tea Co., Ltd
182. Kaliabar & Seconee Tea Co., Ltd
183. Neddem Tea Co., Ltd.
184. Badlipar Tea Co., Ltd.
185. Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ltd.
186. Longai Valley Tea Co., Ltd.
187. Lusheropre Tea Co., Ltd.
188. Rupajuli Tea Co., Ltd.
189. Bordubi Tea Co., Ltd.
190. Bobheel Tea Co., Ltd.

191. Boroi Tea Co., Ltd.
192. Borjan Tea Co., Ltd.
193. Attarikhat Tea Co., Ltd.
194. Jettinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd.
195. British Assam Tea Co., Ltd.
196. Itakhooli Tea Co., Ltd.
197. Jorehat Tea Co., Ltd.
198. Anbheel Tea Co., Ltd.
199. Amgoorie Tea Estate, Ltd.
200. Borellie Tea Co., Ltd.
201. Kachrigoan Tea Co., Ltd.
202. Halem Tea Co., Ltd.
203. Imperial Tea Co., Ltd.
204. Rajmai Tea Co., Ltd.
205. Bargange Tea Co., Ltd.
206. The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation Ltd
207. B N Railway Co., Ltd.
208. Remington Rand Inc (Dollar)
209. Minimax, Ltd
210. A. S. Henry Co Ltd
211. W. & T. Avery Ltd.
212. British Insulated Cables Ltd.
213. Behubor Co., Ltd.
214. International Bitumen Emulsions Ltd.
215. T. E. Thompson & Co., Ltd.
216. Calcutta Tramways Co., Ltd.
217. J. Stone & Co (India) Ltd.
218. Lipton Ltd.
219. Buxa Docars Tea Co., Ltd
220. Koomsong Tea Co., Ltd.
221. Lewis & Taylor, Ltd.
222. Corramore Tea Co., Ltd.
223. Assam Frontier Tea Co., Ltd.
224. Attaberrie Tea Estate Ltd.
225. Dhoolie Tea Co., Ltd
226. Dhendie Tea Co., Ltd.
227. Ishabheel Tea Co., Ltd.
228. Gingia Tea Co., Ltd.
229. Mather & Platt Ltd
230. Meryle Co., Ltd
231. Heatly Gresham Ltd
232. Moabund Tea Co., Ltd
233. Associated British Machine Tools Makers Ltd
234. Associated Portland Cement Mfg Ltd
235. Albion Motors Ltd
236. Belseri Chardwar Tea Co., Ltd
237. Ramgaon Tea Co., Ltd
238. Blyth & Platt Ltd.
239. Bogabagh Tea Co. Ltd.
240. Brown Bayleys Steel Works Ltd
241. Endogram Tea Co., Ltd

242. Dima Tea Co., Ltd.
243. Budla Beta Tea Co., Ltd.
244. Saikwah Assam Tea Co., Ltd.
245. Bazaloni Tea Co., Ltd.
246. D. J. Keymore & Co., Ltd.
247. P & M. Co. (England) Ltd.
248. Marconi International Marine Communication Co., Ltd.
249. Prichet Gold E. P. S. Co., Ltd.
250. Phillips Lamp Co., Ltd.
251. Super Heater Co., Ltd.
252. Moran Tea Co., Ltd.
253. Romai Tea Co., Ltd.
254. Looksan Tea Co., Ltd.
255. Lukwah Tea Co., Ltd.
256. Vulcan Foundry Ltd.
257. Morangi Tea Co., Ltd.
258. Sonabheel (Assam) Tea Co., Ltd.
259. Rangajan Tea Co., Ltd.
260. New Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd.
261. Tingre Tea Co., Ltd.
262. Majuli Tea Co., Ltd.
263. Holman Bros. Ltd.
264. Johnson & Sons (Mfg. Chemist), Ltd., London.
265. Alfred Herbert Conventry Ltd.
266. Good Year Tire & Rubber Co., Ltd., Akron Ohio U. S. A.
267. British Equitable Insurance Co., Ltd.
268. British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.
269. Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd.
270. Oriental Gas Co., Ltd.
271. Jessop & Co., Ltd (London).
272. United Scottish Insurance Co., Ltd.
273. Whiteaway Laidlow & Co., Ltd.
274. Alliance Assurance Co., Ltd.
275. Aluminium Ltd
276. Atlas Assurance Co., Ltd.
277. Air Survey Co., Ltd.
278. Bank Line Ltd
279. British American Assurance Co., Ltd.
280. British Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
281. British and Foreign Marine Insurance Co., Ltd.
282. British General Insurance Co., Ltd.
283. British Oak Insurance Co., Ltd.
284. British Traders Insurance Co., Ltd.
285. Bushells Limited.
286. Butler Machine Tool Co., Ltd.
287. Bank of Scotland Dundee Nominees Ltd.
288. Bankers & Traders Insurance, Co., Ltd.
289. C. A. Persons Ltd.
290. Caledonian Insurance Co., Ltd.
291. Canton Insurance Office Ltd.
292. Central Insurance Office Ltd.
293. Century Insurance Co., Ltd.
294. Charantee Steamship Co., Ltd.

- 295. China Fire Insurance Co Ltd
- 296 City Line Ltd
- 297 Clan Line Ltd
- 298 Commercial Union Assurance Co Ltd
- 299 Crosbie & Federal Union Insurance Co Ltd
- 300 Eastern Federal Union Insurance Co Ltd
- 301 Ellerman Bucknel Steamship Co Ltd
- 302 Employers Liability Assurance Corp Ltd
- 303 Guardian Assurance Co Ltd
- 304 Hain Steamship Co Ltd
- 305 Hongkong Fire Insurance Co Ltd
- 306 Indian General Navigation & Railway Co Ltd
- 307 Lever Transport & Trading Co Ltd
- 308 Hames Nourse Ltd
- 309 Law Union & Rock Insurance Co Ltd
- 310 Liverpool & London Globe Insurance Co Ltd
- 311 London Assurance
- 312 London Guarantee & Accident Co Ltd
- 313 London & Lancashire Insurance Co Ltd
- 314 London & Provincial Marine & General Insurance Co Ltd
- 315 London & Scottish Assurance Corporation Ltd
- 316 National Guaranty & Security Association Ltd
- 317 New Zealand Insurance Co Ltd
- 318 Northern Assurance Co Ltd
- 319 National Insurance Co of Great Britain Ltd
- 320 Pearl Assurance Co Ltd
- 321 Prudential Assurance Co Ltd
- 322 Queensland Insurance Co Ltd
- 323 Railway Passengers Assurance Co Ltd
- 324 Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation Ltd
- 325 Royal Insurance Co Ltd
- 326 Scottish Union & National Assurance Co Ltd
- 327 South British Insurance Co Ltd
- 328 State Assurance Co Ltd
- 329 Union Insurance Society of Canton Ltd
- 330 North China Insurance Co Ltd
- 331 Raleigh Investment Co Ltd
- 332 North British and Mercantile Insurance Co Ltd
- 333 River Steam Navigation Co Ltd
- 334 Phoenix Assurance Co Ltd
- 335 Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd
- 336 Union Assurance Society Limited
- 337 Gramophone Company Limited
- 338 Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co Limited
- 339 Asiatic Steam Navigation Company Limited
- 340 Western Assurance Company, Ltd
- 341 Sun Insurance Office Limited
- 342 Sea Insurance Company Limited
- 343 Standard Life Assurance Company Limited
- 344 Indo-pacific Shipping Company Limited
- 345 T & J Broklebanks Limited
- 346 Silver Line Limited

347. Patume Insurance Company Limited
348. Yangtzee Insurance Association Limited.
349. British Sulphate & Amonia Federation, Limited.
350. Hall Line Limited.
351. Holland British Line.
352. Java Sea & Fire Insurance Company, Limited.
353. Netherland Steam Navigation Company, Limited
354. Overseas Assurance Company Limited.
355. Rotterdam Lloyds Steam Navigation Company, Limited.
356. Reliance Marine Insurance Company, Limited.
357. West of Scotland Insurance Company Limited.
358. Indo China Steam Navigation Company, Limited
359. Marine Insurance Company, Limited.
360. Ocean Accident Insurance Company, Limited
361. Ocean Marine Insurance Company Limited.
362. Ransoms & Rapier Limited
363. Suttons & Sons Limited
364. Union Marine Insurance Company Limited.
365. General Film Distributors Limited.
366. Assam Consolidated Tea Estates Limited.
367. Assam Estates Limited
368. Bengal United Tea Company, Limited.
369. British Indian Tea Company Limited.
370. Cachar & Dooars Tea Company Limited.
371. Dekhari Tea Company, Limited.
372. Deundi Tea Company, Limited.
373. Dorman Long & Company Limited.
374. Doolahat Tea Company Limited
375. Dooars Tea Company Limited.
376. East India Coal Company Limited
377. Jhanzie Tea Association, Limited.
378. Jokai (Assam) Tea Company, Limited.
379. Lumbiguri Tea Company, Limited
380. Makum (Assam) Tea, Company, Limited.
381. Makalbari Tea Co., Limited.
382. Shakemate Tea Estates Limited
383. Sephinjuri Bheel Tea Company, Limited.
384. St. Mary Axe Securities Limited.
385. Steel Brothers and Company Limited.
386. Upper Assam Tea Company Limited.
387. Worthington Simpson Limited
388. W. T. Henley's Telegraphic Works, Limited.
389. Yule Catto and Company Limited
390. Achabam Tea Company, Limited.
391. Allen & Hanburys, Limited.
392. Assam Dooars Tea Company Limited
393. Bagruote Tea Company, Limited.
394. Bahjan Tea Company, Limited.
395. Baranagore Jute Factory Company, Limited.
396. Barraoora (Sylhet) Tea Company, Limited.
397. Bell's Asbestos & Eng. Company (India) Limited
398. British Darjeeling Tea Company Limited.

- 399 Brao & Chingoor Tea Estates, Limited
- 400 Greenwood Tea Company, Limited
- 401 Griffin & Tatlock Limited
- 402 Hope Tea Company Limited
- 403 Hunwal Tea Company Limited
- 404 Henleys Tyre & Rubber Company Limited
- 405 Patterson & Co., (India) Limited
- 406 Rajah M. Tea Estates Limited
- 407 Western Cachar Tea Company, Limited
- 408 Wiggins Leape & Alex Perie (Export) Limited
- 409 Amalgamated Tea Estates Limited
- 410 Anglo American Direct Tea Trading Company Limited.
- 411 Chandpur Tea Company Limited
- 412 Indian Tea of Cachar Limited
- 413 Jalanga Tea Company Limited
- 414 Kanan Devan Hill Produce Company Limited
- 415 Silvertown Lubricant Limited
- 416 Semens Brothers, Limited
- 417 Alex Lawrie & Company Limited
- 418 Charga Tea Association, Limited
- 419 Chubwa Tea Company Limited
- 420 Chulsa Tea Company, Limited
- 421 Dharmal Tea Company, Limited
- 422 Doloi Tea Company Limited
- 423 Daniel Addison and Company, Limited
- 424 East India and Ceylon Tea Company Limited
- 425 Eastern Assam Tea Company Limited
- 426 Eastern Coal Company Limited
- 427 Frys Smalting Company Limited
- 428 Ever Ready Company (G. H.) Limited
- 429 Fry's Metal Foundries Limited (U. K.)
- 430 Fry's Diecastings Limited
- 431 Haimutty Tea Company Limited
- 432 Jewel Filter Company Limited
- 433 A. & J. Mun and Company Limited
- 434 Majagiam Tea Company Limited
- 435 Mc Gregor and Balfour Limited
- 436 Meenakshi Tea Company Limited
- 437 Malonah Tea Company Limited
- 438 Scott's Tea Company Limited
- 439 Shinnagar Tea Estate Company Limited
- 440 Sylhet Tea Company Limited
- 441 Single Tea Company Limited
- 442 Titagar Tea Factory Company Limited
- 443 Allynagar Tea Company Limited
- 444 Amo Tea Company Limited
- 445 C. & B. Brothers and Company Limited
- 446 Cherie Valley Tea Company Limited
- 447 Cossipore Tea Company Limited
- 448 Craigpark Tea Company Limited
- 449 Chokidinghi Tea Estates Limited
- 450 Dangua Jhar Tea Company Limited
- 451 Darjeeling Consolidated Tea Company Limited

462. Djoo Tea Company Limited.
453. Doloo Tea Company Limited.
454. Doodputli Tea Company Limited.
455. Kukichurra Tea Company Limited.
456. Lankapara Tea Company Limited.
457. Lebong Tea Company Limited.
458. Mazdehes Tea Company Limited.
459. Merchantile Bank of India Limited
460. Marybong and Keyal Tea Estates Limited.
461. Northern Dooars Tea Company Limited.
462. Planter's Stores and Agency Limited.
463. Rungli Ting Tea Estates Limited.
464. Rukni Tea Company Limited.
465. Tarapore Tea Company Limited.
466. Thanai Tea Company Limited.
467. Victoria Jute Company Limited.
468. Zalonj Tea Estates Limited.
469. Castleton Tea Estate Company Limited.
470. Aluminium Limited Montreal, Canada.
471. Borokai Tea Company Limited.
472. British Arc Welding Company, Limited London.
473. British Ropeway and Engineering Company Limited
474. Berholla Assam Tea Company Limited.
475. Bells Asbestos and Engineering Limited.
476. Bank of Communication (Chinese Dollar Co.).
477. C & E Morton Limited, London.
478. Consolidated Tea and Lands Company, Limited.
479. Croda Limited.
480. Herta Pharmaceuticals, Limited.
481. I. C. I. Dyestuffs Limited
482. John Dickinson and Company Limited.
483. Kalline Tea Company Limited.
484. Kalamazoo Limited
485. Leesh River Tea Company Limited
486. Light Foot Refrigeration Company Limited.
487. National Bank of India Limited
488. Nobel's Explosives Company Limited
489. Noyapara Tea Company Limited.
490. Pekin Syndicate Limited
491. Powers Samas Accounting Machines Limited.
492. International Combustion (India) Limited
493. John Thompson (Wolverhampton) Limited.
494. Jenson and Nicholson (London) Limited.
495. John Thomson Water Tube Boiler Limited.
496. John Thomson (Dudly) Limited.
497. John Thomson (Kencott Water Softeners) Limited
498. Keyah Tea Company Limited
499. Keymer Bagshawe and Company Limited.
500. Namdang Tea Company Limited
501. Arcadian Tobacco Company Limited
502. Cigarette Manufacturing (India) Limited.
503. Dominion Tobacco Company Limited.

- 504. Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company Limited
- 505. Printers (India) Limited
- 506. Peninsular Tobacco Company Limited.
- 507. Thomas Bear and Sons (India) Limited.
- 508. Atlantis (East) Limited.
- 509. John Dewar and Sons Limited.
- 510. F. & C. Osler Limited.
- 511. G. Atherton and Company (Eastern) Limited
- 512. Hally Brothers Limited.
- 513. Standard Telephone and Cables Limited
- 514. Thomas Duff and Company Limited
- 515. Blackwood Bryson and Company Limited.
- 516. Seroggie Brothers Limited.
- 517. James Finlay Company Limited

List of Dollar Companies

- 518. Isthmian Steamship Company Limited.
- 519. Great American Insurance Company Limited.
- 520. Hardord Insurance Company Limited.
- 521. Home Insurance Company Limited.
- 522. American Insurance Company Limited.
- 523. Eastern United Assurance Corporation Limited.
- 524. American President Lines.
- 525. Honover Insurance Company Limited
- 526. Paramount Film of India Limited
- 527. National Cash Register Company.
- 528. Ludlow Jute Company Limited.
- 529. The Calico Printers' Association Limited, Manchester.
- 530. The Oorogaum Gold Mining Company of India Limited, London
- 531. The Champion Roof Gold Mines of India Limited, London.
- 532. The Nandydroog Mines Limited, London.
- 533. The Mysore Gold Mining Company Limited, London.
- 534. The London Varnish and Enamel Company Limited, Subsidiary Company of Jensen and Nicholson Limited, London.
- 535. Messrs Gordon Woodroffe and Co., Ltd., London
- 536. Messrs Binny and Co., Limited, London
- 537. The Madras Tea Estates Limited, Cumbum, Madura Dt.
- 538. Messrs. Harvey Brothers, Agency Limited, London.
- 539. The Pondicherry Railway Co., Ltd., Trichinopoly.
- 540. The British India Tobacco Corporation Ltd., Guntur.
- 541. The Kerala Tea Co., Ltd. By Agents Messrs. Harrison and Crossfield Limited, Quilon
- 542. Messrs Darraugh Small and Co., Ltd., Cochin.
- 543. The Pullangode Rubber Co., Ltd., By Agents Messrs Aspinwall Company Limited, Cochin
- 544. Messrs J. H. Vavasour and Company Limited, London, By Agents Messrs. Aspinwall Company Limited, Cochin.
- 545. The Ceylon Land and Produce Company Limited.
- 546. The Estates and Agency Co., Limited.
- 547. The Nilgiri Plantations Company Limited.
- 548. The Katary Nilgiri Tea Estates Limited.
- 549. The South Indian Railway Company Limited.
- 550. The M. & S. M. Railway Company Limited.
- 551. The Madras Electric Supply Corporation Limited.

552. The Madras Electric Tramways Limited.
553. Messrs. Harrison & Crossfield Limited, Quilon.
554. The Magnum Syndicate Limited, Salem.
555. The Malayalam Plantations Limited.
556. Messrs. Charles Margon and Company Limited.
557. The South India Export Company Limited.
558. Messrs. Decleromont and Donner Limited.
559. Messrs. Simsons and Mc. Conechy Limited.
560. The Anglo French Textiles Company Limited.
561. The East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories Ltd.
562. Messrs. Samuel Barrow and Company Limited.
563. The Indian Peninsular Rubber and Tea Estates Limited
564. The Poonmudi Tea and Rubber Company Limited.
565. The Jamaican and General Mortgages and Investment Trust Company Limited.
566. Messrs. William Goodacre and Sons Limited.
567. The Gudalore (Nilgiri) Tea and Coffee Estates Limited.
568. The Anamalai Tea Estates Limited.
569. Stanmore Anamalai Estates Limited.
570. The Waterfall Anamalai Tea Estates Limited.
571. The Naduar Estates Limited Valparai.
572. Pearco Lcalic and Company Limited, Calicut
573. The Commonwealth Trust Limited, Calicut.
574. The English and Scottish Joint Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited, Calicut
575. The Indian Coffee Corporation Limited, Ghrtala

Shri Sri Prakasa's Supplementary Question to Seth Govind Das's Starred Question No. 439 of 21st February 1947

CULTIVATION OF VEGETABLES IN LAWNS NEAR KINGSWAY IN NEW DELHI

Under condition No. 8 of the terms of agreement with the contractor the unfiltered water was supplied to him free of charge. The amount of Rs. 26,000 was the rent of the land only. Condition No. 8 of the agreement referred to above reads as follows:—

“Whatever unfiltered water will be available on the area leased to the lessee free of charge and the lessee will be responsible for any damage to water installations and he shall be responsible to make his own arrangements to irrigate his crops”.

Sardar Mangal Singh's Starred Question No. 588 of 25th February 1947
IMPORT OF OPTICAL GOOD IN INDIA.

	1945	1946
	Rs.	Rs.
Import duty realised under Tariff item 77(2) which comprises Optical, Scientific, Philosophical and Surgical Instruments.	6,30,548	11,88,966
Duty on Spectacle goods is not separately recorded	.	.

STATEMENT RE RAILWAY EARNINGS—LAID ON THE TABLE

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai (Member for Railways and Transport):

Sir, I lay on the table a copy of statement showing the net earnings for the financial years 1944-45 and 1945-46 and the revised figures for 1940-41 to 1948-44 of new Railway lines opened on and after the 1st April 1938 and 1939.

Statement showing net earnings during the years 1940-41 to 1945-46 of new Railway lines opened on and after the 1st April 1938 and 1939 (the figures for 1940-41 to 1943-44 have been revised)

(Note.—Only such lines as are entirely open and have been working for a full year are included.)

S. No.	Name of project	Working Railway	Gauge	Mileage	Date of opening	Net income creditable to the project for		Percentage return of income (col. 7) on capital outlay	Estimated percentage return of income on capital outlay after 5 years a Her estimate as estimated originally
						Year	Income		
1	Khadro-Nawab-Shah	Jodipur	Metre	30.7	20.11.39	6	7	8	9
						1940-41	1,20,973	8.41	
						1941-42	1,48,200	9.82	
						1942-43	1,05,619	6.66	
						1943-44	1,47,855	9.12	
						1944-45	1,31,556	7.72	
						1945-46	1,72,491	9.73	0.87 (a)

(a) This is the figure arrived at in the 'final location survey'.

The earlier estimates produced before the Standing Finance Committee showed a probable return of 0.87% only.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE REVISION OF THE CONVENTION RE RAILWAY FINANCE

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Railways and Transport).
Sir, I move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eleven members to serve on a Committee (along with the Honourable the Transport Member, the Honourable the Finance Member and the Financial Commissioner, Railways) to consider the revision of the Convention adopted under the Assembly Resolution, dated the 20th September 1924 and to report in the course of the Session preceding the Budget Session 1948."

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eleven members to serve on a Committee (along with the Honourable the Transport Member, the Honourable the Finance Member and the Financial Commissioner, Railways) to consider the revision of the Convention adopted under the Assembly Resolution, dated the 20th September 1924 and to report in the course of the Session preceding the Budget Session 1948."

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay European). Sir, can the Honourable Member say how long the proceedings of the Committee are likely to take?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I made a reference to that point in the course of some remarks that I made during the discussion on the cut motions. My expectation is that the materials necessary for the Committee will be ready some time in July and the Committee should be able to finish its work before the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Will the Committee meet in Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That will depend on the convenience of the Committee, but my idea is that they will meet here.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, for the information of the Committee that is to be brought into existence I should like to state that the Convention that is sought to be considered by this Committee was once arrived at by the whole House and it was then considered advisable that the railways being one of the biggest industrial concerns in this country should be made to pay a suitable contribution to the general revenues. I am anxious that the Committee should keep this very prominently before itself and consider it very carefully, because from certain quarters a view has been expressed that the railways should not be asked to make any contribution at all to the general revenues, because they hold that the railways were mere public utilities and should be run for the benefit of only two parties,—the railway users and the railway workmen. I do not hold that view.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan). Sir, is the Honourable Member going to discuss the whole question of the Convention?

Mr. President: Let us see how he proceeds.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I am anxious that such industrial concerns as are financed and managed by the State should be made to contribute to the general revenues of the State, because the community as a whole and the Government on its behalf contribute to much of the prosperity of the railways as they contribute to any other industry. While all other industries run by private enterprise are being made to pay various taxes like income-tax and so on.....

Mr. President: I am afraid it will not necessary on this motion to go into the details of this question at all. The whole Convention is to be considered by the Committee whose report will be coming before the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is why I want this particular view to be placed before the Committee so that they would not feel completely free to dismiss this particular Convention and the principle underlying it that this particular industry should make a suitable contribution to the general revenues

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The subject raised by the Honourable Member is one which in my opinion would properly fall within the purview of this Committee. My intention is that the Committee, when it is elected, should draw up its own terms of reference, and this question, along with other questions, will be considered by the Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Therefore I hope that this Committee will not simply brush aside this question. I do not want the Committee to be so completely independent of such considerations as to draw its own terms of reference and make a report which may in the end come to be considered by this House but may not be so very useful.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions, Muhammadan Rural): May I understand from the reply of the Honourable Member that it will be within the terms of reference of this committee to consider whether the contribution to the general revenues should be abolished altogether, whether it will be within the terms of reference of the committee to change the system of depreciation fund, and whether it will be within the terms of reference of the committee to consider the whole policy of the betterment fund and various railway reserves?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as Government are concerned, every question relating to these matters would be within the purview of the Committee.

Mr. President: The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eleven members to serve on a Committee (along with the Honourable the Transport Member, the Honourable the Finance Member and the Financial Commissioner, Railways) to consider the revision of the Convention adopted under the Assembly Resolution, dated the 20th September 1924 and to report in the course of the Session preceding the Budget Session 1948."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election by means of the single transferable vote of eleven members to the Committee to consider the revision of the Convention regarding Railway Finance, the programme of dates will be as follows.—

1. Nominations to be filed in the Notice Office up to 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 19th March.

2. Election, if necessary, will be held on Friday, the 21st March in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

CONTROL OF SHIPPING BILL

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the control of shipping.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the control of shipping."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

CAPITAL ISSUES (CONTINUANCE OF CONTROL) BILL

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the continuance of control over issues of capital.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the continuance of control over issues of capital."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PROVINCIAL INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal (Law Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND BAR COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal (Law Member): Sir I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879, and the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879, and the Indian Bar Councils Act, 1926."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

REQUISITIONED LAND (CONTINUANCE OF POWERS) BILL

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (Government of India Nominated Official). Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to requisitioned land, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Select Committee went into the provisions of the Bill very carefully and recommended two important changes: (i) That paragraph (c) of sub-clause (3) of clause 5 of the Bill should be deleted as the Committee considered that the procedure for acquisition provided in the ordinary law should suffice. Government have decided to accept this recommendation (ii) The other important change which the Committee recommended was that the cases in which Government had to resort to the acquisition of requisitioned land, compensation should be paid at the market value, not on the date of the notice of requisition as was provided in the original Bill but the market value as on the date of notice of acquisition. The Committee felt that the market value of land had substantially increased since the dates when many of these requisitions were made and considered it inequitable in principle that compensation for acquisition to-day should be based on the lower values prevailing at the time of requisition. Government have very carefully considered this recommendation and have decided to accept the principle underlying it. That principle is that the person from whose possession land was requisitioned during the war should be placed in a position to purchase another piece of land similarly situated when his land comes to be

[Mr. G. S. Bhalja]

acquired by Government. On detailed examination Government found that if the recommendation of the committee were accepted in toto the cost involved would be in the neighbourhood of some 20 crores of rupees. This is because land values have considerably appreciated in urban areas. An enquiry was made from Provinces to indicate the extent to which land values had risen during the war. The replies received show that the values vary from place to place, but speaking generally in rural areas land value has risen roughly from 25 per cent. to 150 per cent whereas in urban areas it has risen from 100 to 500 per cent, and in some cases like Delhi it is reported that it has risen by about 1,000 per cent. Government feel that they should not allow profiteering to be made in this business and that people in urban areas in particular where land values have risen tremendously should not be allowed to make fortunes out of the war. Therefore it is proposed that while in rural areas the value of appreciation should be given practically in full to the person from whom land was requisitioned, in urban areas compensation for the use in value should be limited to 100 per cent over the market value of the land when it was requisitioned.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Will he kindly repeat the last sentence?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: In urban areas compensation will be limited to 100 per cent over the market value at the time of requisition. This will substantially cover the increase that has taken place in rural areas and will very largely also cover the appreciation in value which has taken place in urban areas. An amendment to give effect to this principle will be moved by my honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, which Government will be prepared to accept.

Sir, I should make it clear that while this Bill was before the House, Government did not wish to take advantage of the existing provisions of the Ordinance to which exception was taken by the Select Committee. Therefore, as soon as the report of the Select Committee was received by Government, they issued Executive instructions to Provincial Governments and to other Departments of the Central Government to the effect that they should not resort to the proceedings of acquisition under the Ordinance under paragraph (c) of sub-clause 3 of clause 5. They also issued instructions that while in urgent cases notice of acquisition might be issued they made it explicitly clear that the compensation which would be given in respect of land which is now proposed to be acquired will be on the basis which will be settled by this House in the course of the discussion on this Bill.

Now I shall indicate briefly the progress in de-requisitioning buildings and lands. The total number of derquisitioned properties were, buildings 6,582 and lands 5,161. Up to the end of January 1947, 5,192 buildings and 1,847 lands were derquisitioned, giving a percentage of 79 and 36 respectively.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce): Can the Honourable Member give us the finance involved in the release, because the original finance was Rs. 9 crores a year, and I want to know. ...

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am coming to that, Sir, I have received the latest information which, though not complete, shows that the derequisition improved further on the 28th February 1947. The number of buildings and lands derequisitioned was 5,461 and 2,111 respectively, the percentage being 82 and 41 respectively. As regards the rent, the point raised by my honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, the position is somewhat like this. The estimated annual rent payable on the total number of requisitioned properties was Rs. 161 lakhs on buildings and Rs. 3.54 lakhs on lands. The amount of rent payable on properties still under requisition on the 31st January 1947 has come down to Rs. 50 lakhs on buildings and 2.69 lakhs on lands, giving a percentage of 31 and 77 respectively.

In the course of the first reading of the Bill, several Honourable Members made suggestions that Boards should be established to consider the question of continuance of requisitioned properties and acquisition of requisitioned properties. Government have given effect to this suggestion by establishing advisory boards of officials and non-officials at certain important centres to advise Government on all questions arising out of the continued possession by them of requisitioned lands and acquisition of requisitioned lands. The Boards at Bombay and Calcutta consist of the Secretary, Defence Department or his representative as Chairman, four official members and four non-official members, the latter being two Members of this Honourable House, one Member of the Council of State and one non-official member nominated by the Provincial Government concerned. The Board at Delhi consists of the Secretary, Works, Mines and Power Department as Chairman, three official members and four non-official members, the latter being one member of this Assembly, one member of the Council of State and the two Presidents of the Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Committees. The Board at Chittagong has also been recently established. The President is the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, and the members are the Revenue Secretary or his representative, the Major General Administration Eastern Command, or his representative, the Deputy Director of Lands, Hirings and Disposals Service, the local member of this House and the Presidents of the Chittagong Municipal Committee and the Chittagong District Board. A similar Board is in the process of being constituted at Dibrugarh. These Boards, particularly those in Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi have already started functioning and rendered useful advice to Government. The Calcutta and Bombay Boards have met twice and have gone into great details over the various properties which are still being continued in possession of the Central Government Departments and the Provincial Government. The Delhi Board has also already met, and if necessary my friend, the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department is here to answer questions in connection with the deliberations of that Board. Now that advisory boards have been established in important centres.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammādan Rural): What about the rural areas?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The Boards could consider any complaints, with reference to the respective rural areas concerned.

I need not go into the merits of the individual cases which were raised on the floor of the House. I shall only refer to one or two cases which were prominently mentioned. My honourable friend, Mr. C. P. Lawson, mentioned the case of flat No. 11/1, Burdwan Road at Calcutta. The tenant of this flat was an officer of the Bengal and Assam Railway and continued to be in occupation under the authority of the Works, Mines and Power Department. The question of railway officers occupying requisitioned houses in Calcutta was discussed at the Calcutta Advisory Board meeting held on the 27th January, and the Committee recommended that all properties occupied by railway officers should be derequisitioned. Government have accordingly issued instructions that as far as possible the properties which are in occupation of the railway department or any other department of the Central Government, except of course the Defence Department, will be derequisitioned within the next six months. More than one Honourable Member referred to the Madh Island and the hardships caused to its residents. The position is this. A considerable portion of this Island has been occupied by the Combined Operations Establishment. The question of the post-war location of this establishment was taken up with the Government of Bombay last year and a decision was reached that the requisitioned land should continue to be under the Defence Department for a period of three years pending a decision about the post-war location of the

[Mr. G. S. Bhalja] establishment. The whole question has again been examined and it has been agreed that the Madh village should be handed back to the Bombay Government for occupation but not derequisitioned—subject to the following conditions:

(a) Access to the village from the ferry to be along the direct route. In no circumstances will the villagers be permitted to pass the military camp area which is situated near by.

(b) A small area of paddy fields to the south of the village will remain within the military camp area, though the produce on this land will be handed over to the civil authorities.

(c) The beaches within the present wire fences will be kept exclusively for military use.

There are certain minor conditions with which I need not trouble the House.

My Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh, who is absent to-day, raised the question of derequisitioning properties belonging to corporations and public bodies. Government have issued orders that, as in the case of educational institutions, priority should be given to corporations and public bodies in the matter of releases. Government have asked for a report from the Commands on properties requisitioned from corporations and public bodies, which are still in the occupation of the armed forces personnel and will pass orders on individual cases on receipt of the reports.

I hope, Sir, this will satisfy this Honourable House that Government, are anxious to derequisition properties held by them as rapidly as possible, that they have met the wishes of the Honourable Members to the extent it was possible and that they have also accepted, at any rate in principle, the recommendations made by the Select Committee. Sir, I move

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to provide for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to requisition land, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, the Defence Secretary has, as usual, tried to make the best of a bad case. On no issue has public feeling been roused so high and the echoes of that have been heard in this House over and over again from every quarter of the House and every party as on the question of the requisitioning by Government and the hardships arising therefrom. While we appreciate that a certain amount of reduction has been done, I must accuse and keep on accusing the Defence Department of slovenliness, lousiness and in stronger words if you like, scandalous neglect. It is the same order of neglect which has prevented the demobilisation to come up to the same degree and according to the proposed plan. Now in the third year of the plan we are told that the army is still spending as much as 3½ crores a year on properties which they requisitioned and which they still have not been able to derequisition in spite of very elaborate staff, some of which they brought over from England for this purpose.

Now, Sir, this Department has been spending one lakh of rupees per day in the peace period by keeping on occupying properties which they had taken over from private individuals. They do not seem to realise the effect of it and very rightly the members of the Select Committee, all of them, took what the Department deserved, viz., a very strong line on the subject.

Apart from these delays in derequisitioning at the cost of public finance so much needed for other purposes, Sir, this Department came round with a proposal that whatever was requisitioned at sometime in the past should be acquired by Government at the value which existed at that time in the past. My Honourable friend, Sir, instead of leaving it to me to explain the amendment which I am going to move on the subject, has glossed over the position

of Government. But what was the position of Government in the Bill as it went to the Select Committee? It was that they would acquire the property of a man which they had requisitioned at the value on the date on which such requisitioning took place under the ordinary process of the Land Acquisition Act, *viz.*, the original value *plus* 15 per cent.

Let me mention, both from experience and from very close observation, the manner in which this requisitioning was done. My own land was taken by Government all of a sudden without any intimation to me and after two months I received a communication as to whether I am willing to give this land to Government which they wanted. But it was already in their occupation. Meanwhile they had dug it up and done all sorts of other things. Then, Sir, comes the process of fixing what is the reasonable rent on it. On this a brown piece of paper, hardly legible is sent to the party concerned and he is informed that the rent for this property is being fixed by Government and if he wishes to attend the meeting he may do so. In other words a perfectly arbitrary procedure was adopted. There was the Defence of India Act and the Ordinances and the war atmosphere was hanging heavy. But nobody tried ever to resist or to get Government to a reasonable frame of mind. Nobody enquired, no civil party, at all events had been given any justification for the numerous properties which they took. Sir, so fond are the members of the Defence Department, so high and mighty they think themselves that nothing but the best is good for them. Their offices must be right on the Hornby Road in Bombay, which is the most expensive place. Their houses must be on the Malabar Hill or on the Marine Drive, the most expensive quarters. Their stores must remain on pieces of land.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammads Rural). Why should the rich be always there on the Malabar Hill? why not the poor as well?

Mr. Manu Subedar: The rich can be asked to vacate if wanted and the white officers of the Defence Department, if Government liked, may be located there. But merely in order to put loose stores, lands worth many lakhs of rupees were taken over and thousands of rupees were paid as rent on them. Perhaps I need not go into all this. But this particular Bill is the successor of the laws under which all this was done in the past. It was done in a wasteful manner: it was done with the maximum inconvenience to the civil population and it has continued in the third year after the war and according to the figures given by my Honourable friend an expense of no less than three crores and twenty lakhs is being incurred on this account.

The Government's position in the Bill as originally introduced was that they not only did the owner of the property out of the use of it for many years and as I said the allegation is not from one quarter only but from so many quarters that on the whole those whose properties were taken over were not paid adequately. It is true that some people did get paid adequately and perhaps even more and that is a pointer to the large amount of corruption which exists in the department. Therefore I say that the administration of this particular section deserves severe condemnation from every side of this House and it was in this frame of mind that we examined the original position of Government, *viz.*, that not only the owner was done out of the use of his property for six years but that if Government now wants to take it over, it will take it at its old value, at the time it was taken over.

The Honourable Defence Secretary did not tell us here what information he gave us elsewhere and that is the most relevant information on which we all felt that there was only one solution. That was that over 80 per cent. of these requisitioned lands and properties belong to the agriculturists. Take the position of the agriculturist who one fine morning finds—he is unable to read, again due to the failure of this Government to make him

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

literate—a lot of unformed persons coming and trampling over his field and throwing him out. He does not understand. Ultimately, by the usual processes but after a lot of heartburning he comes to realise that his piece of land is required by Government for the purposes of the war. That land is taken from him and Government do various things with it, and now when he is to get back his piece of land Government offer him a price. What price? The price which existed in 1939, 1940 or 1941. With that money in his pocket if this man went about to purchase a land corresponding to what he had before he would not be able to buy even one-third or half of the area which he had. In other words, without any fault of his own, this poor man was going to be reduced in his subsistence, in his capital and in his sources of income on which his family was sustained very substantially, and this Government had no conscience when they made such a proposition. Sir, every section of this House, and representatives of every party felt that in its application this was the most inequitable rule by which Government wanted these lands. And what was, Sir, the justification of Government? It would cost too much. That was the justification. Are not so many other actions of this very Army costing this Government very heavily?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: May I interrupt my honourable friend for one second? In view of the fact that Government have decided to accept the amendment which stands in the name of my honourable friend is it necessary for him to go into the past history?

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am just explaining how this amendment came about.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: The House has to accept the amendment.

Mr. Manu Subedar: That is another point. There is the Select Committee's Report which we have all signed. The amendment needs an explanation which I am giving. I quite understand that the cap fits and my honourable friend is snatching under it.

The Indian Army today is a white elephant. It is costing excessively and there are various adjuncts to be cut off before you turn your eyes covetously on the land of the poor farmer you acquired. Equity requires that Government should pay adequately in these cases. In certain other cases where the land could be given back to the man we suggested 'give it back.' Where it cannot be given back we suggested, very rightly, 'give him a corresponding piece of land so that he at least has land to land.' He is not profiteering from Government. My honourable friend used the word profiteering. When you give a man a piece of land, what he had before, he is not profiteering. It is you, it is the Government, Sir, who proposed profiteering when they proposed the payment on a reduced scale.

Then, Sir, we were told that it would cost an excessive amount of money. But it came out in the course of the discussions that on some of these properties Government had spent a lot of money and it was not possible for them to give back the lands to the owners. I am of opinion that in all cases where Government have spent money an opportunity must be given to the owner to acquire his old piece of land provided he was willing to pay them all that Government have spent on it at a reasonable figure. The position in many cases is that Government will take up these lands, pay for them and then they will re-sell the whole property. If Government are going to re-sell the whole property, when they will re-sell the whole property will they or will they not realise the enhanced valuation which has come about since the passage of years, and if they are going to recoup the bulk, all and more, of what they pay, is it reasonable that they should show a nice little spirit in

the settlement of claims with, as I said, people of whom over 80 per cent. belong to the rural area? Sir, it is an issue in which rival considerations have to be balanced and some sort of rough and ready justice has to be made. It is on taking into account all issues that we feel that the position would be reasonably corrected if the spirit of the amendment which I am going to move were adopted by this House.

In the amendment, as the Defence Secretary pointed out, what is offered is not today's value. The principle in this amendment is that Government will now pay the value prevailing on the date on which they decided acquisition. What is important in such cases, and the Honourable the Law Member will bear me out, is the intention, namely, on which date and from what time have Government decided to acquire the property which they originally took merely for use. There is a great distinction between taking a thing for hire and taking it for use. A man might have taken a bicycle for hire. He might have paid Re. 1 a day or whatever it is. But then suddenly it might have come to his mind that he should acquire it. If he walked away with it we know what will happen to him. Sir, the intention to take a thing for use and the intention to take it permanently and finally are two different things. I am sorry it was the intention of Government originally to say 'Oh, when we requisitioned acquisition is involved in it. I submit with all respect that it is not involved in it. And because it is not, therefore we feel that it would not be fair to pay the valuation as on the date when the original requisition took place. Apart from this prices have risen in this country as a result of Government's own printing press activities and inflation. Is it fair that the owner of a piece of land should be made to suffer because inflation has arisen through no fault of his own?'

Then it was said 'why should he benefit from the improvements of roads and various other things which may have been made by Government? But have Government been able to take away the benefit of roads which they might have constructed through the whole territory through which such road is passing? Have not other people's lands improved in value? If that is so why do you pick out the few unfortunates who had the misfortune to be picked out by your officers when they visited to select a piece of land for an aerodrome or for some other purpose? Therefore, what we felt was that in all cases, wherever it is possible the man should get a like piece of land so that he may cultivate it and bless this Government and not perpetually curse it as having deprived him of his land. It is a capital deprivation to a poor man which we did not want. Therefore we have to balance considerations of justice on the one side and of public finance and convenience on the other.

Then there is another point on which I feel dissatisfied with the Defence Department. They have not made up their mind. They have requisitioned and they go on paying these monthly charges at the rate of Rs. 25 lakhs a month, or Rs. 1 lakh a day. They go on paying these charges and they are still waiting to see until some Committee report some time and Government take their decision on it on the size of the Army or whatever it is. Until all that is done these people must wait, whether they are under requisition or acquisition they may not know. I say this is not fair to those parties and also to public finance, and I trust Government will take their decisions quickly and that they will release as many of the properties and as quickly as possible, because it is possible for Government, if they so decide later to acquire it again and to do something. But it is not right that you should keep people in suspense any longer after the third year of war.

Then, Sir, the question is what would be a fair limitation without doing serious harm to the party, because any rule which may be adopted under such circumstances is not likely to fit all cases. An extreme case on one side

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could be produced where the value has gone up four times. An extreme case on the other side may be produced where the values may not have gone up and for some local reasons values may have been actually slumped. The position may be different but an average is always a distasteful thing to some people. It only serves the normal case and for the normal case I think the ends of justice would be met if 100 per cent. over the value on the date when the first requisition was made were given. According to the Government's original scheme it would be the original value plus 15 per cent. According to us, according to the new amendment which I shall move when the time comes, the position will be that the man will get the original date value and 100 per cent but he will be limited to that and he will not get anything more than that. Therefore I say that there is a large issue of public policy and justice involved in this and in spite of the fact that what we are ultimately doing may appear like rough and ready justice I do think that this House must take the various points which I mentioned into consideration. This House must indicate in very strong terms that there shall not be any further delays in arriving at decisions, that the settlement will not be put off and that generally all the hardships which are associated with and which were experienced by the civil population during the period of the war at the hands of the Defence Department will not recur in this settlement. Sir, I support the motion generally and I reserve to myself the right of moving my amendment when the occasion comes.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I must say that today the Bill comes with a better claim for recognition in this House than it was entitled to when it was brought up at the last session. By the question of appointing an advisory committee, the Government's *bona fides* as to their intention in regard to keeping in their possession the vast number of properties which were in requisition on only in exceptional cases has been tested. I must frankly admit that the derequisitioning boards which have been set up and which are functioning have well begun their work and the Department has shown considerable responsiveness in the matter of public demands. Last session, when the matter came out from the Select Committee, Government could not make up their mind whether such a board would be advisable or necessary and I hope my friend will not take me amiss when I say that at that time the Defence Department could not make up its mind to shed its bureaucratic trail and later on they certainly fell in line with the popular demand and I take this opportunity of expressing my deep appreciation of the way in which the officials in these derequisitioning boards have tried to accommodate the demand of the public. So far as the Calcutta Board is concerned, I have personal knowledge and authority to say that the Government is not keeping in requisition any property which it is possible for them to release. The Board which was established in Bengal was the Calcutta Board and only those properties were brought under the jurisdiction of this Board which were in Calcutta or the adjoining portions of Hoogly and Howrah. The department has declared today that they are going to set up another Board, the Chittagong Board. As far as my information goes, that Board will have jurisdiction to deal with some areas which were considered military areas in Chittagong and the outlying places. Between the Calcutta Board on the one hand and Chittagong Board on the other, there will be large rural tracts in which thousands and thousands of properties are still under requisition, in which acquisition proceedings have been started and I do not know how they are standing now in the eye of the law within the ambit of the ordinance. Either a third board has to be established for the rural areas (and this will apply also to Pombay and other provinces) or the jurisdiction of these two Boards at Calcutta and Chittagong will have to be so extended as to enable all the parties to get the advice.

In reply to a question put by Prof. Ranga, my friend Mr. Bhalja said that it is open to any party to complain. That shows good intention but many people do not know that they have to complain and they do not know to whom to complain. For instance take the Calcutta Board. You know and the House knows that several thousands of people in Calcutta are interested in getting their properties released. After the first meeting was held and before the second meeting was held, there were very few applications asking for release. That is because they were not given to understand that they had to put up their case. They thought that Government, *suo moto*, will deal with the question and then arrive at a decision in their wisdom.

Without meaning to disclose the discussion at the second meeting, I may say that it was considered advisable that some steps should be taken to invite applications by way of complaint. As a result of that, several hundreds of applications have already arrived in the department. By the time that the next meeting takes place on the 27th April, the committee will have to deal with applications which may run into four digits. If this is true of Calcutta where the people are educated and know that they can complain, how much more true is this in the case of rural areas, where people do not know that they can complain at all and if they can do so, to which quarter the complaints should be sent in order to bring relief. I hope my Honourable friend the Defence Secretary will consider that question.

So far as the Delhi Board is concerned, I think the member representing that Board will be able to speak with greater authority but my information is that things have not progressed very much. As a matter of fact, Delhi is very guilty in the matter of keeping on to requisition. A large number of houses which were originally occupied by the American forces are now vacant. They are not used by Government in the Civil Department or by the civil population for their needs. I would like to know what has been done by the Department to make these properties available for civilian habitation. If Delhi goes ahead and recovers possession of those properties which were taken by the Military authorities and which are no longer in their occupation, then I submit to that extent the need for continuing requisition of other properties will be reduced and this will have an important bearing on the question of permanent acquisition, because if you have got some palatial buildings which you can put to your own use, then the need to hold on to requisition and for acquisition will be reduced to that extent.

Now, Sir, in the matter of this acquisition, I wish to make a few more remarks. Is it possible for the Honourable the Defence Secretary or for the Government to consider the question of bringing these acquisition cases also within the purview of the advice of the Boards which have been set up? After all, it is both his case and my case that the setting up of the Advisory

Board has been a step in the right direction and many a misunderstanding standing in the way of the Department and the non-official feeling may have been resolved by discussion across the table. So, if such a Board or a similar Board can go into the question of the necessity of acquisition, then, to that extent, the Government will get strengthened and many a case will come up which, by exchange of ideas across the table, might have been left out of the purview of the resolution. After all, acquisition is not a very normal proceeding. It means heavy cost to the Government and it means also some inconvenience to the party, including a question of sentiment also. After all, when a party sets up a building it retains it for its own personal and private use. If he is told that he will be given some compensation, that does not answer the whole point. When he built the house, he had no idea of parting with it even for a fancy price. If this Advisory Board is asked to go into the question of the necessity of this

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal]

acquisition, then I submit that the good work which has been started by the Department will continue and they will have its inevitable good effect.

Then, there is one other small matter to which I would like to make a reference. The basis of the compensation which is now proposed by the Department in response to the amendment which has been proposed by my Honourable friend, Mr Manu Subedar is a very good basis so far as it goes. But, I believe, my Honourable friend knows that there are many cases in which acquisitions have already started. The proceedings are in progress and in some cases decisions have been made on the basis of Ordinance, which, incidentally, was a decision on the basis which was furnished by section 19 of the Defence of India Rules. That basis is very different from the basis which will be furnished by the present Act. So, why is it necessary to deprive those parties who have not yet got their compensation but in respect of whom compensation has been decided on the old basis? If this compensation was paid on the basis of the present Act, they would get a little more. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Member to consider this question, namely to extend the advantages of the basis of acquisition which is proposed in this Act to those parties whose properties have practically been acquired but to whom compensation has not been paid. This will look a very generous gesture and it will bring in very generous appreciation on the part of the people. Sir, I hope my Honourable friend will give his consideration to these humble proposals and see his way to accepting the substance of these requests.

Mr. O. P. Lawson (Bengal European). Sir, I have only a very few remarks to make and I will not keep the House very long. I feel a little sorry for the Honourable Member opposite because in receiving the slings and arrows of this House he carries upon his shoulders not only the sins of the Defence Department but the sins of other Departments too. The other Departments are frequently as much—sometimes considerably more—to blame than the Defence Department for the delays that have taken place. But, Sir, when I moved the original motion to refer this Bill to Select Committee there was one fear in my mind and that fear to some extent still remains. My whole point in speaking just now is that I hope the Honourable the Defence Secretary may be able on the floor of this House to make a statement which will make us feel rather more satisfied with the passage of this Bill and its final placing on the statute-book.

Sir, the trouble about this Bill, as far as I was concerned at any rate, was this that as long as these powers remained, it was easier to keep requisitioned property than to look round for some permanent home for people. Moreover, the power of acquisition given by this Bill made it easier for Government to acquire requisitioned property than to construct buildings for their own needs. The proper process at the end of the war was undoubtedly to return requisitioned property to its original owners. Then, Sir, there would be no question about compensation for acquisition and so on and so forth. That would have been the proper course. I admit that in certain cases that cannot be done and I also admit that in certain cases it may be necessary to acquire property. But when I spoke regarding this matter before, I asked the Honourable the Defence Secretary whether it was not a fact that his predecessor had, at any rate, indicated an approximate date by which all this work would be finished. At the time, the Honourable Member replied that he was not aware of any such undertaking. I admit, there was no undertaking. But the Honourable Member's predecessor did fix a target, and I think I am right in saying that his target was the end of 1946. Now, I am going to ask the Honourable Member himself to fix a target. Although he might fall short of his intentions, I see no harm in indicating to this House

a date by which the Honourable Member hopes to get all these requisitioning matters cleared up. By that date, all the requisitioning, if it is to take place, should have taken place and by that date every requisitioned property should be returned to its owners. If that is not done, I am very much afraid that since neither the Honourable Member himself nor even the Central Government of this country can control the activities of petty officials in the various parts of the country, I do not think it will be possible, even with these Requisitioning Boards working, to be quite certain that a property is not being retained, merely because it is much easier to retain that property than to find somewhere else to go. It was from that point of view that I asked various questions about vacant camps and vacant sites in this country. It will not be possible for the Requisitioning Board in Calcutta, to which my Honourable friend Mr. Sanyal has referred, to know whether there are sites in other places to which the occupants of requisitioned property could be moved. So, for that reason I am particularly anxious that a date should be fixed finally as a target.

As regards the acquisition of property the same thing applies. Government can get what building materials they want. They have the powers to get the stuff to the place where they want it. They have got powers to arrange that and they can get priorities on the railways. The people who cannot do this are the civilians, the real owners, of the property that might be acquired. Now, Sir, it is a lot of trouble to get materials to build new property. But Government can do it, while the civilians cannot. For that reason I still do not look with favour upon the acquisition of property. I do not want to delay the House, but my main point,—and I would stress it again—is that I hope the Honourable Member in his reply will if possible indicate the target date by which all these matters will be cleared up.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division, non-Muhammadan) (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 17th March 1947. English translation given below.)

Sir, I want to draw your attention to a few things. How will the provisions for permanent acquisition of land affect the future legislation and what will be our procedure? This is the problem requiring solution. I feel that there are certain provisions in the bill that has been introduced which are based neither on law nor on equity. First of all I draw your attention to the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. Its provisions have been recognized by all and since they have a universal application there is no need of going beyond them. Under this Act lands, houses and buildings are acquired both permanently and temporarily. For temporary acquisition provisions are given in sections 35 and 36. When passing Defence of India Act, 1939 Government formulated some principles in this respect. Before I draw your attention to the provisions of this bill I want to bring to your notice section 19 of the Defence of India Act which lays down the following direction for making an award by the arbitration.

"4. so far as the same can be made applicable "

it will find that the first principle of the

section in this

"So far as the amount of compensation to be awarded is concerned, the Court shall take into consideration first the market value of the land at the date of the publication of the notification under section 4 sub-section 1."

Sir, there are certain other items in the section which, I do not think it necessary to read. A little further on there is another section which reads:

"In addition to market value of land a Court shall in every case award a sum of 15 per cent. on such market value in consideration of the compulsory nature of the acquisition."

Accordingly, in the light of the section of the Defence of India Act which has been referred to in sub-section 1 of section 6 it means that it has been

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laid down in the Defence of India Act, 1939 that the owner shall receive a compensation equal to the market value of the house or land to be acquired or requisitioned and the provisions of section 23 will be applied so far as they can be made applicable. With due deference I should say that the provisions of the 1939 Act were based on equity. They were right. It, undoubtedly, did not contain provisions for 15 per cent compensation, but it was not so important as to result in an appreciable loss, because it is not applicable so far as land requisition is concerned. Requisitioned land after five or six years is not compensated for compulsory acquisition.

This law was in force from 1939 up to 11th December 1945. Then Ordinance No. 19 of 1946 was issued. An amendment was introduced in it laying down that in future for requisitioned lands market value at the time when the requisition was made will be given. This amendment was made on 11th December 1945.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after lunch at half past two of the clock, Mr President (the Honourable Mr G. V. Mavalankar) in the chair.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I was saying that the changes made in the law during the last five or six years and the way in which they were made are surprising. I said that the provisions of the Defence of India Act passed in 1939 were good and nobody had any legal complaint against them except that the 15 per cent compensation provision was not there, all its other provisions were very good. It was in force up to the 11th December 1945. Nobody complained about lands acquired or requisitioned under that law. Then in September 1946 Ordinance No. 19 was enforced. This Ordinance remained in force for nine months from December 1945 to September 1946. Those were the most unlucky people the price of whose land was paid during this time. About 1st October 1946 this new bill was introduced. The Defence Secretary has just said that after the introduction of this bill he has not requisitioned any land under the provisions of the 1946 Ordinance. It means that since the beginning of the war that is from 1939 till now for five or six years good compensation was paid. Then changes were made under the Defence of India Act. The bill under discussion has been introduced in the time of the Interim Government. I thought the time for Ordinances was over but when this bill was introduced my astonishment knew no bounds when I found that this bill was a verbatim copy of the ordinance of the previous Government. When the bill went to the Select Committee every nerve was strained to make the members of the Select Committee honour the provision of the Ordinance No. 19 of 1946. But since they were unjust, wrong and hard the members could not accept them. Accordingly, majority of the members of the Select Committee after a long discussion with the Government decided that to pay market value at the time of the notification to the owners was a law which is morally and equitably right. I was glad that the Government had agreed to it but again I was astonished to hear that the Government accept the principle but since it increases the price of the land they do not want to pay higher price. But what I could not understand is how does increase in price make any difference in the application of a principle? Suppose, there are two persons living as neighbours possessing lands of the same type. If their lands were acquired you give one the price of his land according to the market value while to the other accepting the proposal of the Defence Secretary, half of the market value. May I ask, with due deference what justification you have for your action? You say that the reports received

from the Provincial Governments show that the prices of land have risen from 25 to 150 per cent. and those of houses have increased from 100 to 500 per cent. You have listened to the speech of my learned friend Mr. Manu Subedar. I was thinking what strong proposal my friend would make which would save justice from being murdered. But after I had heard him I was reminded of an Urdu proverb which says: "My heart was making a hell of a clamour, but when it was opened only a drop of blood was found."

I was of opinion that our honourable member was rightly representing the public but I was sadly disillusioned when I saw the proposal laying down that either market value or 100 per cent. above the previous price, whichever is less, shall be given. Arguments advanced in its favour are such as no one will admit as correct. It is said that as 100 per cent average is applied the owner should accept the average as right. I would remind of the proverb which has been repeatedly said in this House: "Accounts are quite correct, why did the family drown?" Those whose property has been assessed at less than 100 per cent. they will apparently receive less compensation than those and consequently suffer no loss but those the price of whose houses and lands have increased from 400 to 500 per cent how will they be satisfied by 100 per cent? In my opinion this Act should be named "Requisitioned Land Expropriation Act." If a person sells his property at the old price plus 100 per cent compensation and goes to the market to purchase fresh property, he will get not more than half of his sold property. If this House passes a bill laying down that half portion of the property of every member of the Assembly shall be confiscated to the Government it will not be harder than the law laying that the owners of the requisitioned lands and houses shall not be given the market price now current, but the market price which was current when the property was requisitioned. Members of the Assembly are very patriotic. They may make and pass any law they desire regarding their own property but nobody has got the right to deprive a person, whose land has been acquired under a law which is universally current in the whole world and which was current in India barring a period of nine months, from receiving the current market value and force to take half or even less than half the current price of his property.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: If the prices fell after two or four years?

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: You have the power to acquire the land at any time during the four years. I will have no objection if you keep it in your possession for four years and then pay him the market value. This Act, however, does not stop here. Its basic principle is wrong. There is a great difference between acquisition and requisition. Acquisition is used when I need a thing and acquire it and requisition is used when I need a thing for a few days only. Properties requisitioned during the war were needed temporarily. May I ask, with due deference, now that the demobilization has been done on a large scale and the war has come to an end how has the need for things, which were required temporarily during war, increased? Now, it is said that the properties which were to be acquired have been acquired. I congratulate the Defence Secretary who has agreed to eliminate the proposed provisions with respect to acquisition from the present Act. In future properties will be acquired under the 1894 Act which is a common Act in India. This present act is being enacted for the purpose of acquiring some of the properties which have already been requisitioned. I submit that there are three grounds for it.

In sub-section 1 of section 5 you will find that the property whose price has increased shall be liable to acquisition. In order to improve a property if it is laid down that either a road is made or the land is levelled or a building is erected on it which has increased its price. This also comes under

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the definition of work. Government wants to acquire the title to such properties as then value has been raised. If property is to be acquired on this ground it would mean in simple language that it is due to mere greed that we want to have the property because we have improved it although in reality we have no need for it.

The second ground given for provisions of part (b) is that to return the requisitioned properties in the condition in which they were taken would entail a great expenditure. To save this it is thought proper not to return the properties. Well, if a person comes under clause (b) and it needs some expenditure which you are not prepared to give. If he says "I don't want any expenses." What excuse have you got for not returning his property?

(Interruption)

So, he will not be given. The case came up in the Select Committee and I know that they are not prepared to return such property also. Although they do not need it but because the value has increased they are moved by greed. If a person is prepared to pay what has been spent on the property even then the Government is not prepared to return it. What right or title the Government have to keep forcibly a property for which the owner is prepared to pay total and partial expenditure incurred by the Government? With due deference I should say that in both the cases the Government should return the property. Mr Gadgil says that he will be offered and he will be paid his expenses. I say that you are closing the doors of an offer because you say that you will pay the old price and not the price which is 400 to 500 per cent of the old one. When you are giving authority to the Government to acquire property on cheaper value than the present market value who will be such a fool as not to acquire the property which has increased in value, at cheaper rates. When it has been made possible for the Government to acquire land at cheaper rate than the present market value how can it be that the Government would not acquire properties which it does not require at all? May I ask if the Government wants to sell these properties, will it sell them on the price plus 100 per cent on which it has acquired them? Do the Improvement Trust, Delhi sell lands on 1939 prices? It will certainly charge the market value. It is said that its reason might be that they have been realizing its profit for such a long time but it is the legal duty of the Government to return the land to the person from whom it was acquired. No one else has any right to it. What have those unfortunate persons whose lands have been acquired done that the Government is so hard upon them? If their properties are to be acquired they should receive a price with which they can purchase similar properties elsewhere. So far as principle is concerned it is not convincing to say that they should be paid less because Government will have to pay 20 crores of rupees. The Honourable Member Mr Manu Subedar has said that the Military Department spends a lot of money; 20 crores of rupees is nothing to them. It is therefore not proper that the Government should practise injustice and break the principle by passing a law which will inflict loss on the people.

You know that the Capital Gains Bill has recently been introduced in this Assembly. Under it the price of the land in 1939 will be taken as its original Cost. On this basis whatever more money will be given it will be taxed. Regarding tax you know that a person who earns one lakh of rupees pays Rs. 62,500 as tax. If the Military Department of the Government pays the Finance Department of the Government realize it in the form of tax. Government have power to impose 100 per cent tax. It is said when the Government was in need it acquired the land; now when it has no need why then this sweet murder of the people? You want to get this bill passed by the House. There is no legal necessity for it. The Government has no defence against the charge that the Government has no right to get it passed.

by the House. But if the House wants to pass, it has power to do so. At least there is no doubt that there is no moral justification for the agreement proposed by Mr. Manu Subedar. Others may bow before it under sheer force but I fail to understand any principle of the agreement.

I have to submit two or three more things. In the present Act wherever it has exceeded the 1894 act there the wrong way has been adopted. I should draw your attention to its Section 3. It gives power for the future also. The Government is empowered to acquire whosever's property it wants to acquire and use it as it pleases. Of course later on the plea that works have been made there will be made. Section 5 says that acquisition will be used only in case when it is compulsory or where the Government will have to spend more on its return. It appears from this that in future also such things will be brought up as will make the return of the property difficult. I will submit with due deference that by passing this bill you will give by your action legal permission to the Government to furnish itself with an instrument which will make the return of the property difficult. You say that in the other case the Government will have to pay to the owner 100 per cent. more price. I submit that under sections 35 and 36 of the Land Acquisition Act 1894 no person has got the right to use the acquired property in a manner which will make it unfit for return to the owner. This provision does not belong only to the Land Acquisition Act. It is found in the Tenancy Act also that the property will be used for the purpose for which it was given and it will not be used in a manner that will make it unfit for the owner to use it as he used it when it was acquired. In case of illegal use the owner was entitled to demand 15 per cent. of the value as compensation. I therefore submit that provisions should be made disallowing the Government to change the original condition of the property.

In addition, I want to draw your attention to another thing. It is the duty of the Government to return the property to the person from whom it was acquired. To give the possession of the property to the person from whom it was taken. The Government should have no right to return it to whomsoever it desires after a names' sake inquiry. Action should not be based on inquiry alone. It cannot be ascertained whether the inquiries conducted by Government officials were really correct or based on truth. The legal responsibility of the Government official is not personal but in the Land Acquisition Act the responsibility is personal. Under it proceedings can be instituted after giving notice. By this Ordinance officers are protected from legal consequences. I have given notice of an amendment suggesting that the property should be returned to the person from whom it was acquired and if he is dead, then to the person who can legally claim it.

There is another section which lays down that Government will give notice for the return of the land after which Government will not be responsible whether the owner or the entitled person takes possession or not. I should say that this is neither a good provision nor is it based on equity. Suppose the Government gives notice that the house will be vacated on the 25th July but the owner of the house is away in Calcutta at that time and knows nothing about the notice. Now if a person without any title takes possession of the house what remedy is there against him? Therefore, after fixing the date notice should be given in such a manner that the entitled person takes possession of the property. There is another thing worthy of notice. Ever since the Government have begun enacting new acts instead of ordinances I find that no other punishment except imprisonment is laid down. In the present bill also a section lays down, that if an owner of the land does not give information when demanded he will be punished with imprisonment for one year. If, however you see the Land Acquisition Act you will find this provision only in Section 10 that it is the duty of the owner to supply information when demanded from him.

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but in case of non-compliance proceedings will be instituted against him under sections 175 and 176 of the Indian Penal Code which provides very severe punishment. Government have acquired the house, if the owner of the house does not supply some information where is the Government's loss? If price is reduced it is the owner's loss. I should say that to deprive a person of his property or to inflict upon him loss under cover of law is not good. It is injustice and against the public policy. It should be amended to satisfy the provision of Section 10. In the end I submit that in my opinion that this bill should pass in the form which has been agreed to by the majority in the Select Committee. Government should acquire as little as possible because requisition means that they did not need it. Until it is urgently needed no acquisition must be made. Justice has not been meted out to the persons whose property has been acquired—nay rather sheer injustice has been done to them.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale (Government of India Nominated Official). Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to state a few facts and clear up, if I may, certain misunderstandings about civil requisitioning. Before I proceed let me make it absolutely clear that I am not dealing with any of the requisitions made by the Defence Department. I am only dealing with requisitions made on behalf of the civil departments of Government. The Department of Works, Mines and Power, which I represent in this House, of course, has certain requisitions to its credit but they constitute only a very small portion of the total civil requisitions. But this department is a service department and, as such, we are responsible for providing accommodation for all the civil departments of Government, and that is how I come here to represent civil requisitions on behalf of Government.

Before I proceed let me try and explain the nature and size of the problem with which Government were faced on the outbreak of war. Taking Delhi for instance, the total office accommodation occupied by all Central Government Departments in 1939 was of the order of 6½ lakhs square feet. The total number of officers was 531 and the total number of clerks was 4,631 and that of inferior servants was 3,198. During these seven years of war, the office accommodation increased from 6½ lakhs square feet to 27½ lakh square feet, or an increase of 4½ times or 450 per cent. The number of officers increased by 250 per cent, the number of clerks increased by 600 per cent and the number of inferior servants increased by 600 per cent. That shows the tremendous size of the problem with which Government were faced. It was quite obvious that a Service Department could not come up and say that the Government should not expand its activities and should not tackle all the various problems which arise in war time—complicated problems of defence, of new controls which were imposed—simply because no accommodation was available. Accommodation had therefore to be found by hook or by crook. The problem was tackled mainly by new construction. The total amount of new construction of a permanent or semi-permanent nature in Delhi was of the order of 14½ lakhs square feet against 6½ lakhs square feet, which was all the accommodation available with Government at the outbreak of the war. Apart from this Government constructed mostly temporary or semi-permanent accommodation for over 10,000 personnel. That in

3 P M itself was a tremendous contribution in the way of new construction. Over and above this a number of Princely houses, 19 in number, were obtained on loan. Certain offices were moved from Delhi to Simla. The scales of accommodation were severely cut down. Houses were split up into flats; a number of people took in paying guests. Boarding houses or hostels were set up. In all these ways most of the problem was tackled, that is by means otherwise than by requisitioning. Requisitioning was undertaken only as a last resort and absolutely to the bare minimum.

I would now like to give the figures of requisitioning, firstly in Delhi, because I think that is where the target of attack is most. Then I will deal with Bombay

and Calcutta. The total number of premises requisitioned in Delhi by the Government of India was 366 and by the Chief Commissioner 147 or a total of 513 houses. Out of these 85 houses have already been derequisitioned by the Government of India and 57 by the Chief Commissioner or a total of 142 houses leaving at present still under requisition 281 houses by the Government of India and 90 houses by the Chief Commissioner or a total of 371 houses.

In Calcutta and Bombay the problem was of a very similar nature, though not of the same magnitude. There a large number of new offices had to be established, chiefly relating to the Income-tax, Commerce Department, Industries and Supplies and so on. There again the problem was tackled as far as possible by means other than requisitioning. The number of houses requisitioned in Calcutta was 83 of which 23 have been derequisitioned, leaving a total of 60 houses at present under requisition. Similarly in Bombay 115 houses were requisitioned out of which five were derequisitioned, leaving a balance of 110 under requisition.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official). What does the Honourable Member mean by houses?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: A house means one complete unit. It may consist of a number of flats. I will give the number of flats later on if the Honourable Member so desires.

In Simla we had 97 houses under requisition all of which have since been derequisitioned. The problem we are faced with in Delhi today is only a matter of 371 houses which are under requisition.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Would the Honourable Member mention as far as Bombay is concerned the number of flats that he has requisitioned in a house, not a whole house but certain number of flats in a house. How many did they amount to?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I have not got the exact figures but the 110 houses which are under requisition—house 157 officers or so. That is my recollection.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: What is the number of flats? In some houses Government requisitioned only one flat out of ten, in some others they have requisitioned three flats out of six. This also must be added to the number which the Honourable Member gives.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The total number of flats is 157, whether it is one out of ten or three out of three. 157 is the figure as far as I recollect, though I am not quite sure. It is not anything substantially more than that.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The Honourable Member mentioned houses and that is why I raised this point.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The number of houses requisitioned is 110 and the number of flats is about 157 or so.

The first point which I would like to make is that the progress of derequisitioning is slow, mainly because requisitioning itself was undertaken on a very modest scale to begin with. Recently I had occasion to speak to an officer of the Ministry of Works from the United Kingdom and he told me that about 20 per cent. of all the housing and residential accommodation in the United Kingdom was under Government requisition. Of course I am not comparing the United Kingdom with India. Conditions were different but I would like to impress on the Honourable Members this fact that derequisitioning is slow, chiefly because requisitioning itself was very moderate and limited to the very bare necessities.

I will now come to the question of derequisitioning. Ever since the war was over, Government have been only too anxious to derequisition and I can assure Honourable Members that each application for derequisitioning houses, whether it is in Delhi, Bombay or Calcutta, receives the personal attention of the Honourable Member in charge, of the Works, Mines and Power Department. The Honourable Member in charge looks into every single case of derequisitioning and tries to do his best as far as possible. But, Sir, our difficulty has been that although the war is over, we have been faced with a number of new problems.

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For instance, we were called upon to provide a large amount of accommodation for the Constituent Assembly. That means living accommodation for about 200 to 400 people and that was this year. Then a large number of meetings and conferences have been held this year and at very short notice we are called upon to provide accommodation, whether it is for the Science Congress or whether it is in connection with any other conference. Now we are going to have at the end of this month the Inter Asian Relations Conference. These demands which have been on a large and increasing scale have hampered us to a very large extent.

Over and above this, we have got very large demands from foreign embassies and legations and from High Commissioners. The house which was occupied by my predecessor Sir Henry Prior has now been given to the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom. His staff is increasing at a very rapid rate and we are finding it very very difficult to find accommodation for him. Last week I was suddenly asked to find accommodation for six members of the French Embassy or Charge-de-Affaires. They suddenly landed in Delhi and we were called upon to find accommodation for them. During the next 12 months, I am told that there will be many new embassies and legations coming to Delhi. Government cannot tell all these foreign countries not to open their embassies or legations in Delhi simply because we have got no accommodation. That, Sir, is the main difficulty, that instead of the demand for accommodation since the end of the war being reduced, the demand for accommodation has been constantly on the increase.

We are told that because of the demobilisation of the forces there will be a large amount of accommodation vacant. There the difficulty is that for one European officer who is demobilised, who was willing to stay in a hostel in one single room, we find that as soon as he is demobilised, his place is taken by an Indian officer, who promptly arrives here with a wife and family and demands family quarters, where formerly one room in a hostel was adequate. Therefore instead of the demand being reduced, I find myself in the unhappy position of having to face innumerable demands from day to day. I fully sympathise with the landlords who want to have their houses derequisitioned. But for every complaint which is received from landlords on account of their houses not being derequisitioned, there are innumerable complaints from others clamouring for accommodation. I wish I could get the Honourable Members to sit with me any day and listen to the numerous complaints which I get from all sorts of people, from Government officials, from non-official members of this Honourable House, press correspondents, foreign representatives, ambassadors, High Commissioners and others who are constantly pressing me to find accommodation for them.

Unfortunately houses do not grow like mushrooms. The number of houses is absolutely limited and we cannot now undertake semi-permanent construction as we did in wartime. We are certainly trying to solve this problem. Government have, Sir, recently sanctioned the construction of 200 flats in Delhi, of 1,000 clerks quarters in New Delhi and of 1,000 clerks quarters in Old Delhi. Similarly, they have sanctioned the acquisition of land on which houses have been constructed in Calcutta and Bombay. We are trying to solve this problem in one direction by new constructions on behalf of Government. But Government cannot utilise all the building material available for their own work. They have to strike a balance and make available building material for private people. Government have also to see that private house building is encouraged as far as possible. Sir, time is running short and I do not wish to take up too much time. The other day I assured the House that the question of private house building was very seriously under consideration and Government were trying their best to provide help as far as possible. That is the real solution of the difficulty with which we are faced. It is not that the housing problem of Delhi, Calcutta or Bombay is going to be solved to any appreciable extent if Government derequisition the 371 and odd houses in Delhi, the 110 houses in Bombay and the 60

houses in Calcutta. After all, sixty houses in Calcutta, Sir, is a drop in the ocean. What will happen if these sixty houses are derequisitioned tomorrow? Is that going to solve the problem? It is not going to make the slightest difference. The Government Officers who are staying in these flats in Bombay—it may be any number of flats; I am not going into that just now—but the number of officers who are at present occupying these flats in Delhi, Bombay or Calcutta will have to continue to live in those places so long as the controls which the House has approved continue to exist. Obviously we have to find accommodation for those people. The only thing that will happen, if these houses are derequisitioned, is that a few landlords will gain, whereas, these unfortunate government servants whose duty makes it absolutely necessary for them to stay in Bombay, Calcutta or Delhi will be either thrown on the streets or they will have to face demands for *pugra* from landlords, or I do not know what else they will do.

I am not concerned with the question of retrenchment. That is a matter which is seriously engaging the attention of the Government. If and when it is possible to abolish these offices certainly these houses will become surplus to requirements and we will have no further use for them. But so long as these offices continue to exist, and, so long as we have to find accommodation for these people, what else can we do except keep these houses under requisition, unless and until new construction is available, or, unless and until houses can be taken on lease? I may assure the House that Government have tried their best to obtain houses on lease in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta. All the people whose houses are under requisition were addressed whether they would agree to the requisition being replaced by a lease. The response was practically negligible. It may be said that the landlords are suffering. The extent of that suffering can be judged from the fact that when Government fixed the compensation, that is, the rent payable for these buildings, in 94 per cent. of cases the rent as fixed by the Government was accepted by the landlords without any dispute. It was only in 6 per cent. of cases that the landlords asked for the amount of rent to be referred to arbitration. That shows that Government have been fairly generous in dealing with these landlords.

The matter was recently considered at a meeting of the Advisory Board on derequisitioning in Delhi. We placed our difficulties before that Board and I believe that the Board was very much impressed with our difficulties and I was even told that in a number of cases the present demand for derequisitioning is not so much because the landlords want to come and live in those premises—genuine cases of hardship have already been dealt with by Government and houses have been derequisitioned—but the present demand comes from people who want vacant possession in order that they should be able to sell the property at greatly inflated rates. I do not know, Sir, how far that accusation is correct, but that is my information. That is what we were told. We were also told that simply in order to accommodate these people who want vacant possession to sell their property at inflated rates, there was no justification for putting a large number of government servants, or, rather, putting Government itself into difficulties.

Much has been said about vacant buildings. I admit that occasionally buildings are left vacant for some time. There are so many difficulties. There is a pool of accommodation at the disposal of the Defence Department. Sometimes a building is vacant. The Defence Department are not quite sure about troop movements and they do not know whether they can replace the accommodation at the disposal of the Civil Departments. It is unfortunate that the Civil Department gets the discredit. By then I am not suggesting that the Defence Department deserves discredit either. Later on when the building comes to us, there are a large number of pressing claimants. A large number of Departments have got their claims. We have to find out which is most urgent and try to allot the vacant premises in the fairest possible manner. We could easily sit down and give it to any Department. But we will be doing injustice to another

[Mr. B. K. Gokhale.]

Department whose needs are probably greater. The allotment necessarily involves difficulties. It is common knowledge about housing accommodation that everybody is very anxious to secure allotment. But once he secures allotment, he is not so anxious to move in. There are hundreds of difficulties: he finds that certain rooms require alterations; certain light points have to be provided; certain other things have to be done. The building remains vacant and we are told that we are not utilising the accommodation to the fullest extent. We made two minute surveys of the vacant accommodation position in the last three months, and we found that the total amount of vacant accommodation, so far as residential accommodation is concerned was less than a fraction of 1 per cent. while the vacant accommodation position in respect of office accommodation was perhaps slightly more, but, in no case above 1 per cent. That is the position about vacant accommodation.

We have been asked to fix a target for derequisitioning. Here I frankly confess that I am not in a position to fix any target. The first thing will determine the pace of derequisitioning is the size of Government Departments in the near future and in the distant future. Well, I cannot say when retrenchment will begin, when the size of offices will be reduced, and when certain controls which are being imposed by this Honourable House will be done away with and these offices will no longer be necessary. Then there are so many other uncertain factors of the situation. There is the constitutional position. We do not know what will be our requirements for the Centre after June 1948. I do not know whether the Centre will require accommodation in Calcutta or Bombay next year. The whole thing is so uncertain that I must confess I cannot fix a target date for derequisitioning. Provisionally speaking, however, Government expect that the new construction which has been sanctioned will probably be ready by October 1948, and by October 1948, we may be able to release a very large block of requisitioned accommodation, if, by that time, new demands don't crop up, if foreign Embassies and things like that do not collar all that we are prepared to derequisition. That, again, is a contingency about which I cannot say anything very definite at present.

Sir, I have already said that the Honourable Member in charge of the Works, Mines and Power Department looks into every case personally. The Advisory Board is going into the whole matter and the Honourable Member pays particular attention to its advice. I must confess that I cannot add anything further to what I have said except that I hope that instead of giving us blame or discredit for what has been done, the House will realise and appreciate our difficulties and give Government due credit for the large amount of accommodation that they constructed in wartime and for what they have done in the way of utilising the accommodation available at their disposal in the best possible manner ever since the war was over.

Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan): I rise to make a few observations on this Bill based on my experiences in my own province which was the greatest victim of war in the matter of requisitioning. There, college buildings, school buildings, hostels for boys and girls were requisitioned for the use of the military. Also all decent private houses were requisitioned for the accommodation of the soldiers. Electricity was cut off from private houses, so that ball rooms may be kept busy. Water supply was cut off from private houses so that water may be taken miles away in the interior where houses were built for military purposes. Thousands of villagers were rendered homeless and their fields were taken away and drains were constructed so that there may be less mosquitoes. All this was done during the war not by our enemies or Japanese or members of the Indian National Army but for the benefit of Allied Troops.

I take very strong exception to certain provisions of this Bill, because they want to prolong the agony from which we have been suffering so long,

owing to circumstances beyond our control. It will require very strong nerve on the part of any dictator to come to this House and ask for these powers and it will require extreme docility on the part of the followers of the dictator to agree to these measures in peace time. I would invite the attention of the House to certain provisions of this Bill and ask them to ponder over it before they finally accept the Bill as it stands.

Clause 9 of the Bill says:

"No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any order made thereunder."

Those who are in the legal profession know very well how the words 'good faith' can be interpreted in any way you like.

Clause 8 says:

"The Central Government or any Provincial Government may, by order notified in the official gazette, direct that any power conferred or any duty imposed on it by this Act shall, in such circumstances and under such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the direction, be exercised or discharged by such officer as may be so specified."

The arbitrary and extensive powers conferred by this Bill can be exercised by one single officer and the fate of thousands of people will be placed under the tender mercy of this particular officer. It is nothing new that I am speaking of. As a matter of fact, a single officer was in every case authorised to make requisition in our part of the country. He could do whatever he liked and no power on earth can set aside the order. Today in peace time we are still allowing the Government to make a provision enabling a single officer to exercise these arbitrary powers. I should have expected the Select Committee to make suitable amendments to this provision.

Then again sub-clause (4) of clause 5 says:

"Any decision or determination of the appropriate Government under sub-section (3) shall be final and shall not be called in question in any Court."

This clause says that and may be required although it may not be for the benefit of the public or for the benefit of the Government. It is left to the tender mercy of the Government to make whatever decision it likes and that decision cannot be questioned by anybody. Will the parties affected by such a decision be allowed to make a representation before the appropriate Government before they come to any decision? No, Sir. No provision has been made in this Bill. Is it not arbitrary in the extreme to introduce a clause like this which places the people at the tender mercy of the Government.

I now come to clause 3 of the Bill

"Notwithstanding the expiration of the Defence of India Act, 1939, and the rules made thereunder and the repeal of the Ordinance, all requisitioned lands shall continue to be subject to requisition until the expiry of this Act and the appropriate Government may use or deal with any requisitioned land in such manner as may appear to it to be expedient,

Provided that the appropriate Government may at any time release from requisition any requisitioned land."

Now Sir, has the appropriate Government requisitioned land for the benefit of the villagers who have been rendered homeless? Has the appropriate Government released for the benefit of the villagers their cultivated lands which have been spoiled? There was some meaning in depriving these villagers of their home on account of military exigencies, if the Government found employment for them at nominal daily wages. What has happened is that the Government have deprived them of their means of livelihood and their land. Should it not have been the first object of the British Government to restore their lands to the villagers whose means of livelihood have gone? Why are not these things done first? Their lands have been converted into airfields which are not in use now and may not be used in future and still these lands are kept under requisition. Simply because these air fields may be required against in case of a prospective war, the Defence Secretary wanted to retain these lands under requisition, for all time

[Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.]

to come. If a war breaks out at any time, it would not require much time to make your air fields again. It will certainly not require much time when the Government is in your own hands. Nor will it require much time to persuade the people to give up the land for the defence of their country. Then, why should you keep this land because of some distant possibility of utilising it in case a war breaks out? Another thing which I noticed in the note which has been prepared by the Defence Secretary was that the process of derequisitioning is steadily progressing. That is true, but it is proceeding very slowly and deliberately slowly because nobody wants to part with the advantages which he has gained during the war time. Nobody wants to give up the luxury of living in beautiful houses belongs to others. No one wants to be deprived of that. So, the rate of derequisitioning is very slow.

I also want to draw the attention of the Honourable Member to certain specific instances which have been mentioned and where the delivery of the buildings has been given by the military persons in occupation to wrong persons. Although the land was taken from one particular person by the Deputy Commissioner as the requisitioning authority, it has been given to another person or the building has been given to another person at the time of de-requisitioning by the military personnel which was in possession. What are you going to do about that? Are you going to drive the party who had given the land to the requisitioning officer to litigation? I have myself approached the Government on these matters and the reply has been that it is not possible for them to interfere. When the land has been given already by the military, the Government cannot do anything. At any rate, the Government of the province cannot do anything in the matter. But something has got to be done. I gave you the land when you wanted it and I want to get it back now from you because it is no longer wanted by you. And I am told that I cannot get back the land because the military personnel wrongly gave the land to some other person. Is this a fair treatment? What provision is there to check this kind of action? Is that order of an officer who is appointed under clause 8 final? A single officer is appointed under this clause. He requisitions some property or he refused to derequisition it and his order is final and nobody can say anything about it.

Then, Sir, I would very much urge that the expression "appropriate government" should be defined, so that everything under this Act can be done by the Government in whose province a particular land or house is situated, because it is very difficult for persons in remote provinces to come up to the Government of India and to submit their representations in this behalf. I may tell you that when most of the Congress Members were in jail and when the Government was being carried on in the provinces under section 93, all this requisition was done under the orders of the Government of India. I can say that at least so far as my province is concerned. Now, to approach the Government of India in all matters affecting de-requisitioning is a stupendous task which an ordinary villager or an ordinary private individual cannot undertake. So, I would suggest that the expression 'appropriate government' should be defined as the provincial government of the province where this requisitioned property is situated. That will simplify matters. It might be urged that the Provincial Government may be at loggerheads with the Central Government and may release land which the Central Government acquires or may refuse to acquire the land which the Central Government requires. I cannot believe that such a contingency is possible because even under the ordinary circumstances whenever land is required for a railway, the Provincial Government always does the requisitioning of that land. Nowhere it is suggested that the Provincial Government may refuse to acquire land which is wanted by the Railway Department and therefore such a measure should be adopted. If the Provincial Governments can be trusted to acquire land whenever it is needed for the Government of India, why don't you trust the Provincial Governments in whose province the land is situated to decide whether the particular requisitioned land should be released or whether a particular requisitioned

tioned land should be acquired? Why don't you leave that matter to the decision of the Provincial Government? That will make the people of the province feel at ease, because they can approach the Provincial Government and take the necessary step. But it is very difficult for them to come up to the Government of India in matters like these. Therefore, I would suggest to this Honourable House to accept the definition of 'appropriate government' to be this, that it means a Government in whose territory the particular requisitioned property is situated. So, I take opportunity of asking the Defence Department to release quickly as possible at least those villages which were the homes of the villagers and those fields which might still be cultivated and from where food can be grown.

Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan Bhattacharyya (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to say that a very large number of aerodromes have been constructed in the Burdwan Division in Bengal and hundreds and thousands of acres of paddy land and forest land have been requisitioned for the purpose, but no compensation has yet been paid to the owners. In a few cases where compensation has been paid, it has been paid at rates which prevailed at the time of requisition. These poor agriculturists and owners of forest land do not know whom to approach for the compensation. I would, therefore, like to propose that an Advisory Board like the Chittagong Advisory Board should be set up for the Burdwan Division which the aggrieved might approach for redress of their grievances and get the compensation due at an early date.

Another thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Defence Secretary is that these lands were requisitioned some time in 1941 and 1942, but the owners have not yet got any compensation and they do not know when they would get. I would, therefore, suggest that some interest should be paid to the owners for this long interim period so that they might not suffer any loss in any way. Then, Sir, in the Burdwan Division the prices of paddy land and forest land have gone up by 400 or 500 times and if the owners are paid only at double the rate, they will suffer a great loss and they won't be able to secure an equivalent area of land which they have been deprived of. Sir, there is a class of land in the Burdwan Division recorded in Settlement papers as "waste land", although these lands are cultivated once in two or three years. The Government officials of the Land Acquisition Department have stated that no compensation would be recommended for these lands as these lands have been recorded in Settlement Records as "waste lands". If that be the case, Sir, it would be a great hardship and I should like to suggest that these lands should be compensated just like other lands. With these words, Sir, I support the Bill, but I hope the Honourable Defence Secretary would look into these matters and redress the grievances which I have just placed before the Honourable House.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sir, I shall take only a few minutes. I only wish to point out that in requisitioning lands and buildings for Government use in big cities, I think, it is time that Government saw that those whom they accommodate in those buildings are really deserving of accommodation. I have gone through the list very carefully of buildings requisitioned by Government and I find that some of the flats are occupied by officers who should not be allowed to occupy those flats. I find they are occupied by officers, I will not mention the department from which they come, because I do not want to make any invidious distinction, who come from departments whose duty it is to see that they house their own officers properly. If any private firm tried to get Government to assist them to house their officers as some of these departments have done, I think Government would be the first to come down and insist upon their building quarters for their staff. They do not build quarters for their staff, they do not even now do it, but they come to Government to ask for requisitioning of buildings for them. I think it is wrong.

Another point which I should like to bring to the notice of the House is this: that we are in the middle of March. At the end of this month we shall have to pass this budget. I do not know where we are. I trust you will see that while

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir]

these Bills are being discussed at great length by this Honourable House it does not mean that we shall be gagged when the budget comes. I have no objection to Honourable Members speaking at length on Bills of this character. By all means let them do so, it is an important Bill. We are in the middle of March and it is important that the Budget should be passed by 31st March. In my experience of 17 years, I have never known of the House being engaged on Bills of this kind in the middle of March. If the consequence is that we, Members, who would like to have our say on the Budget are going to be deprived of that right, I can only hope and trust that you will see that justice is done to us.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, I have heard with great attention and noted the many and varied points which have been raised from various quarters in the House. My Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar with his usual eloquence levelled several charges against the department into which I do not propose to go at the moment. A meeting of the Bombay Advisory Board of which he is a Member was held only the day before yesterday and the suggestions which he made on the floor of the House were also made by him at that meeting. I have got here a draft summary of the proposals made by him. We have already called for a report from the Q.M.G. in India as to the extent to which these suggestions could be given effect to. I hope that will satisfy my Honourable friend who happens to be absent at the moment.

Sir, it was heartening to find that for once at any rate my Honourable friend Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal showed some appreciation of the work done by the Defence Department. In this connection, I would only say that I hope the House will soon be in a position to show the same appreciation in respect of all the activities of the Defence Department. He raised the question as regards complaints which would come from areas not covered at present by the Boards which have already been established. I shall make the intention of the Government quite clear. We established these Boards at the important centres. I have mentioned because these were the places where the bulk of requisitioned properties were situated. If however there are other places in the provinces where there are complaints of requisitioned properties being continued longer than necessary Government will have no objection to extending the jurisdiction of these Boards so as to cover the whole province, in particular, the Board of Calcutta will be authorised to deal with complaints coming from all over the province except the areas which come within the jurisdiction of the two Boards to be established at Chittagong and Dibrugarh. I hope that would satisfy my Honourable friend.

In this connection, I wish to refer to the Press Note which we issued when we established these Boards to indicate their functions. The press note says that the Government of India have decided to establish at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Chittagong and Dibrugarh, Advisory Boards of officials and non-officials to advise Government on questions arising from the continued possession by them of requisitioned land and acquisition of requisitioned land. Thus the Boards will clearly deal with questions of acquisition. That would also meet the point raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson who suggested that before Government decide to acquire a particular property they might consider whether there was an alternative property available. It certainly would be the function of the Boards to consider questions of that type.

My Honourable friend Mr. Lawson asked us to indicate the target date for the derequisitioning of properties. My Honourable friend Mr. Gokhale, the Secretary for Works, Mines and Power department stated how difficult it was, to suggest a date as the last date by which we shall be able to derequisition all properties. I would further explain the difficulty by the illustration of another civil department, namely the Industries and Civil supplies department who are responsible for disposals. Now, the House is aware that there are thousands of tons of surplus stores lying in various places and the Defence Department have assumed responsibility for storing and guarding them until they have been disposed of by another depart-

ment of the Government of India, namely the Industries and Supplies Department. Unless and until they are in a position to say that this disposal work would be completed by a certain date it would be very difficult for the Defence Department to indicate a target date.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: What do they say?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: They have not been able to give any target date. But the House can rest assured that the Bill itself provides for automatic termination. It cannot last longer than the Act passed by the Parliament which authorises this legislature to continue certain controls, and that is a maximum period of five years. In the first instance, that power continues for a period of two years. A notification has just been issued by His Excellency the Governor General in his discretion continuing these powers for a period of two years. Beyond the period of two years, the powers will have to be continued by a vote of both Houses of Parliament. The maximum period for which this Bill can remain in operation is therefore a period of five years from the 1st of April 1946.

My Honourable friend Pundit Thakurdas Bhargava in his very eloquent Hindustani speech which I was glad to hear has attacked the basis of compensation which is proposed to be introduced. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar who is to move the amendment I referred to earlier will deal with the question as to why it was considered desirable to restrict the grant of compensation to 100 per cent over the value at the time of requisition. He asked me whether Government would be creating new assets or new works with a view to easily acquiring land which they cannot acquire at the present moment. I have no hesitation in giving him an assurance that Government have no such intention, they do not wish to create any new assets merely in order that they may be in a position to acquire land under part (a) of sub-clause (3) of clause 5 which this Bill authorises.

As regards giving the land over which assets have been created to the original owner there are various difficulties. To give an illustration, we have built a big hospital at Aundh; is it desirable that the hospital which has been constructed at a cost of several lakhs should be offered in the first instance to the owner of the land? It would be against public policy to offer this land with the buildings to the owner of the land. The assets have been created by Government for a specific purpose and if Government wish to continue in possession of that property for that purpose I can see no inherent injustice in the proposal to acquire such land.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know what will be the basis of acquisition in respect of those premises where acquisition has been made through the Ordinance but compensation has not yet been made?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: We have carefully examined that question also and our conclusion is that if land was acquired under the Defence of India Rules compensation would be paid as provided for in those rules. We cannot obviously reopen cases which have been closed; I do not think it would be right and equitable to do so. But if land was acquired under the Ordinance, i.e., a notice of acquisition was issued, but compensation has not been finally determined at the time when this Bill becomes an Act, the new basis of compensation will be applied and not the old basis, even though a notice of acquisition may have been given under the Ordinance. I hope that will satisfy my Honourable friend.

A complaint was made that in some cases compensation was given to wrong persons at the time of derequisitioning. I shall be glad to inquire into any specific instances of such wrong compensation having been given. If one merely makes a general remark like that, it is not possible to give a specific reply. But I certainly give an assurance that if any such cases are brought to the notice of Government they will be promptly inquired into.

[Mr. G. S. Bhalja.]

My Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava also raised the question of punishment. Government have no desire to take powers to inflict unduly severe punishment in time of peace, and I am prepared to accept on behalf of Government the amendment which he proposes to move with a view to reducing the punishment provided for in this Bill.

I hope this will give the House an idea of the earnestness with which Government consider such questions and conduce the House of their genuine desire to proceed with derequisitioning as expeditiously as possible, and I hope the House will pass the motion I have made.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I ask for one information? Perhaps the Honourable Member knows that some parties who have purchased lots of articles from Disposals Directorate are keeping large premises and compounds as store-yards and godowns for these articles, and they do not show any desire either to dispose of them or to remove them elsewhere. How does the department propose to deal with this question?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I think all these matters he can bring before the Advisory Board on which he sits.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: As a matter of fact this matter was discussed in the Advisory Board but we discovered some legal lacuna. Will the Honourable Member consider the question of filling up that lacuna so that we might force these parties to remove their goods?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Yes, Sir, if the evil complained of is on a very appreciable scale we shall certainly examine the desirability of introducing a new provision.

Captain G. T. B. Harvey (Madras European): Sir, we have been listening to talk of requisition, acquisition and de-requisitioning, etc. But one question I should like to ask and that is about in cases where the Defence Department has leased property from a private owner how long does it usually take to pay the rent? I know a particular case of an elderly lady who happens to own property which she was persuaded to lease to the Defence Department. I believe that was four years and three months ago, and establishments costing some seven lakhs have been built on that property. And as far as I know she has not received one penny of rent yet.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I will certainly look into the case that my Honourable friend has cited.

Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, what is the position of the Advisory Board? Will their recommendations be accepted in every case or can they be rejected also? Are they merely an advisory body?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: As the name suggests, it is an advisory board. But I am here to give an assurance on behalf of Government that the recommendations of the Board will be given effect to to the greatest extent possible.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to requisitioned land, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I beg to move:

"That to clause 3 of the Bill, before the existing proviso, the following new proviso be inserted, namely:

"Provided no such works are constructed on the requisitioned land as are mentioned in part (a) of sub-section (3) of section 5 of the Act or as can give rise to incurring of such costs of restoration as are mentioned in part (b) of sub-section (3) of section 5 of the Act."

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

In connection with this amendment I will only submit that if such works are allowed to be constructed as contemplated in part (a) of section 5(3), then after some time when the occasion arises the appropriate Government will be in a position to say subsequently that since such works are there section 5(3) will be applicable. And thus construction of works will be tantamount to preparing the ground for acquisition. Now after having heard the Defence Secretary I consider that the policy of Government is not to acquire land in cases where it can be avoided, and if so, there is no reason why in future such works should be constructed as would entitle Government to acquire land or such cost be incurred as would make it difficult for Government to restore the land to the person from whom it was taken. Therefore considering what has fallen from the Defence Secretary I presume he will accept the amendment and give effect to the policy which he has been pleased to enunciate. Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved

"That to clause 3 of the Bill, before the existing Proviso the following new Proviso

'Provided no such works are constructed on the requisitioned land as are mentioned in part (a) of sub-section (3) of section 5 of the Act or as can give rise to incurring of such costs of restoration as are mentioned in part (b) of sub-section (3) of section 5 of the Act.'

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, I regret I have to oppose this motion which proceeds, I suggest, on distrust. I did give an assurance on behalf of the Government that it was not our intention to have this provision in order that we may have the power to acquire land; but if a provision like this is made in the body of the Bill what would be the result? There are several places where we have built temporary constructions—huts or buildings—which may have to be repaired. Strictly speaking, if a provision like this was passed, my Honourable friend would come forward and say that the Government have newly constructed these huts and therefore they have no power to acquire the land on which these huts are constructed. It may happen that it may be necessary for Government to construct some buildings with a view to getting the best use out of a particular land which is requisitioned, and it would considerably hamper the Government if a provision of this kind is made in the body of the Bill. Sir, I oppose this amendment

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Do I understand the Honourable Member correctly that the Government assurance given just now relates to this extent that Government will not create new assets so as to invite the provisions of sub-clause 3 of clause 5?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I said that the Government had no intention of resorting to this provision merely in order that they may be in a position to acquire that bit of land, which they would not otherwise be able to acquire, but I added that it may be necessary sometimes to create new assets in order to put the land to the use for which it was originally requisitioned. It would considerably hamper the Government if they had to be tied down by a provision of this kind in the body of the Bill.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: In view of the assurance given by my Honourable friend, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I beg to move.

"That in part (b) of sub-clause (3) of clause 5 of the Bill, the following be added at the end, namely :

"and the owner declines to accept the restoration of requisitioned land without payment of compensation by the Government."

In placing this amendment before the House all that I have to say is that the real reason why the Government want to acquire a particular building or piece of land is that in the opinion of Government the incurring of cost of resorting the requisitioned land to its original shape will be excessive. Now, with a view to see that this reason of the Government is fully met and made inapplicable in cases where the owner does not insist on the Government for restoring the land to its original shape and is prepared to accept the land in its present shape, I have moved this amendment. If the Government accept this amendment, it will not mean extra cost to them. Sir, I commend this amendment to the House.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved :

"That in part (b) of sub-clause (3) of clause 5 of the Bill, the following be added at the end, namely :

"and the owner declines to accept the restoration of requisitioned land without payment of compensation by the Government"

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: A similar suggestion was made before the Select Committee and I had then given the assurance that if in circumstances described in part (b) the owner of the land requires the land back there would be no objection to giving it back to him. The Committee felt that it was hardly necessary to include this in the Bill itself, but if the Honourable Member desires that it must form part of the Bill, I have no objection to accepting this amendment on behalf of Government. I would however suggest a slight change in the wording. The Government draftsman suggests that it should be worded in this way :

"and the owner declines to accept the release from requisition of the land without payment of compensation by the Government."

Mr. Deputy President: I take it that Pandit Bhargava accepts this alteration.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Yes, Sir, I do.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That in part (b) of sub-clause (3) of clause 5 of the Bill, the following be added at the end, namely :

"and the owner declines to accept the release from requisition of the land without payment of compensation by the Government"

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is :

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, I beg to move :

"That for clause 6 of the Bill the following clause be substituted, namely :—

'5 (1) In respect of the continued subjection of requisitioned land to requisition under this Act or the Ordinance, compensation shall be determined and paid in accordance with the provisions of section 19 of the Defence of India Act, 1939, and of the rules made thereunder :

Provided that all agreements and awards under the said section in respect of the payment of compensation for the period of requisition before the expiry of the said Act shall continue to be in force and shall apply to the payment of compensation for the period of requisition after such expiry.

(2) In respect of any acquisition of requisitioned land under this Act or the Ordinance, the amount of compensation payable shall be such sum as would be sufficient to

purchase at the market rate prevailing on the date of the notice under section 5 a piece of land equal in area, to, and situated within a distance of three miles from, the acquired land, and suitable for the same use as that to which the acquired land was being put immediately before the date of its requisition, or a sum equivalent to twice the market value of the acquired land on the date of its requisition, whichever is less; and such amount shall be determined and paid in accordance with the procedure set out in the aforesaid section 19 and the rules made thereunder.

- (3) For the purposes of sub-section (1) all the provisions of the aforesaid section 19 and of the rules made thereunder, and for the purposes of sub-section (2) such of those provisions as relate to matters of procedure, shall be deemed to be continuing in force."

I do not wish to say anything in explanation as I have already explained to the House that this is an agreed amendment on all sides. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved:

"That for clause 6 of the Bill the following clause be substituted, namely:—

- "6 (1) In respect of the continued subjection of requisitioned land to requisition under this Act or the Ordinance, compensation shall be determined and paid in accordance with the provisions of section 19 of the Defence of India Act, 1939, and of the rules made thereunder:

Provided that all agreements and awards under the said section in respect of the payment of compensation for the period of requisition before the expiry of the said Act shall continue to be in force and shall apply to the payment of compensation for the period of requisition after such expiry

- (2) In respect of any acquisition of requisitioned land under this Act or the Ordinance, the amount of compensation payable shall be such sum as would be sufficient to purchase at the market rate prevailing on the date of the notice under section 5 a piece of land equal in area, to, and situated within a distance of three miles from, the acquired land, and suitable for the same use as that to which the acquired land was being put immediately before the date of its requisition, or a sum equivalent to twice the market value of the acquired land on the date of its requisition, whichever is less, and such amount shall be determined and paid in accordance with the procedure set out in the aforesaid section 19 and the rules made thereunder.

- (3) For the purposes of sub-section (1) all the provisions of the aforesaid section 19 and of the rules made thereunder, and for the purposes of sub-section (2) such of those provisions as relate to matters of procedure, shall be deemed to be continuing in force."

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Since this is an agreed amendment, I think it would be a waste of time to criticise it. But I would like an explanation. An equal area has to be bought or an amount provided that will buy an equal area within three miles. In big cities like Bombay, Calcutta or Madras, to acquire a bit of land within three miles could not be of the same class as the land acquired. It must be different. Even a quarter of a mile would make a big difference in a city like Bombay, and therefore to put in a provision like this appears to be impracticable. It goes on to say: "... and suitable for the same use ..." How could in a big city land within a radius of three miles be suitable for the same use. It must be within a very short distance.

Then it goes on to say "the acquired land was being put immediately before the date of its requisition ..." That too seems to me to be impracticable. The land may be vacant land. Generally it is and may be in a very valuable locality. It was not put to any use and would have been built upon. But the wording is "and was being put immediately before the date of its requisition". It was put to no use before its requisition. It ought to be or was intended to be used. There was a bit of land. It could have been built on but it was vacant and therefore it ought to be the past tense also. I would like some explanation.

Mr. Mann Subedar: The whole of this section was intended to be useful for agriculturists whose land was taken and if my friend read it in the context of a farmer, whose land was taken away, the whole thing applies, because 80 per cent. of the cases involved are with reference to farmers and it was out of regard

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

to them that the Select Committee members wanted to have it like this. So far as my friends comment is concerned, the only part which would apply to city land is the 100 per cent. By no stretch of imagination can we apply the previous use, or the three mile radius or a like value at all. Therefore, we felt if we are to deal satisfactorily from the point of view of the rural population, we were doing a service if it was this way. Besides it was an improvement over Government's previous proposals. I agree that such a clause would penalize a good many city men whose property Government would acquire.

Raj Bahadur Devendra Mohan Bhattacharyya: At the time of requisition paddy was selling at Rs. 1-4-0 a maund. Now it is Rs. 6-4-0 a maund and that shows that the price of agricultural land has gone up by 500 times. If you pay him only at double that rate, he will not be able to secure that land.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I agree with my friend, but we had to strike a rough margin of equity. According to us he will get the original value and 100 per cent. more. He will get the full compensation in order to replace a like amount of land in the neighbourhood.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the English translation given below—*Ed. of D*.) Sir, my friend Mr. Manu Subedar says that his amendment is an agreed amendment. Any opposition to it will therefore be academic. It is not proper to say anything against it at present but I should say this much that this amendment would have been of the nature of an agreed amendment only if the persons who were on the Select Committee and who decided against the Bill in the Select Committee were consulted. If it had been done with their agreement it would have been better. They would have then no cause for complaint. To do so behind their back is against the principles of democracy. I have a complaint that when decision was taken I was also a member of the Select Committee but I was never informed of it otherwise I would have certainly said that I did not like the thing. Now since they have given a decision and Mr. Manu Subedar and other members are all respectable I will say only this much that the people, for whose benefit Mr. Manu Subedar says this decision was taken, will receive no benefit—nay sheer injustice will be done to them. A man, who knows rural life, understands that if land is given to an agriculturist at a distance of three miles from his old land he will receive no benefit. This amendment does not contain even this provision that canal land will be given for canal land. This amendment is nothing but an eye-wash.

The second thing is that it will be sheer injustice if they are paid 100 per cent. price. I will tell the Defence Secretary that if the price of land has increased in Urban areas from 300 to 500 per cent., do not the people of Urban areas then deserve justice? Have they not families? Is their money not for their comfort? If it is, why justice is not done to them. What is this that you do justice to the people of rural areas and leave aside the people of the urban areas. Should the same justice and sympathy be not meted out to the people of the urban areas which is meted out to the people of the rural areas? I do not for one moment allow that justice should not be done to the people of the urban areas or their rights should not be preserved. I have already given many reasons to prove that it is quite unjust. If the House want it I have no objection. If the House want that the Government shall confiscate half portion of the property of every member of the Assembly it can do so but the House have no power to lay down that the lands which were taken on condition that they will be returned should not be returned to their owners. If a person whose land was acquired had been paid the price at that time he would have made a fourfold profit by its legal use. If the price has increased there is no reason that his land should be confiscated without paying him that price. For whose benefit he is to make this sacrifice? War was fought by the British and Abdullah and Ram Chander should lose their land. This is not justice. They should get the

market value of their properties. Government, however, have not done this. They themselves made a law in 1939 that prices should be paid according to the market value. This was in force up to 11th December 1945. From 9 months the law was changed that they should get the price current at the time the property was requisitioned. Now, that the war has been terminated for quite a long time there seems no reason why they should not be given the price to which they are entitled. If the House says that the agreement is against it I do not want to say anything. But I will say that the amendment is beneficial neither to the people of the rural areas nor of the urban areas nor to the Government. If the Government would pay more price it will pay with one hand and get back with the other because lots of taxes such as income-tax, super-tax, Capital Gains Tax etc. are to be paid on the price. In this way more than 50 per cent is realized I should say why is this so without any enjoyment is being committed. I, therefore say that the proposed amendment is unjust even if the House agrees to it.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, the great Machiavelli said: "Property is the source of all evil" and a bad government makes the evil worse. If they had acquired the properties somewhere at the beginning of the war, much of the trouble that we are witnessing would have been completely avoided. The attitude of the Government then was to acquire straightaway as little as possible but to take as much as possible on lease believing, short-sightedly as usual, that the whole war would be a short-lived affair. But not only was the war a prolonged one but the results have been much more than anybody could have expected. The point is this. Those who had to part with their lands, must either get back their lands or get a fair price. I understand that 80 per cent. of the lands occupied by the Government under the Defence of India Rules were rural and a small portion was in the urban areas of this country. In the rural areas prices have not gone up so much as was sought to be made out by my Honourable friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. So far as the urban areas are concerned undoubtedly prices have gone up. In between the time when the lands or properties were acquired and now, every owner or whosoever was entitled to get any compensation for use and occupation has been paid not only the reasonable rent but much more than that. I do not think any complaints have been made on that account. I may give one instance. When property was acquired at Dehu Road the amount of rent that was fixed and is being paid by the Military Department is so much that even now it represents a higher rate of rent than is available in the surrounding area. If the Government does not want land, it has got to release it. My first request to the Government would be to release as much as they can and as the amendment moved by my friend Pandit Bhargava is accepted by the House, things have improved. If the owner is prepared to take back his land without asking for compensation, the Government now is bound to give it. There remains only one category, under which it will be necessary for the Government to acquire land and that is defined in Clause 5, sub-clause 3 (a). That means a very small percentage. If the prices have risen, I want to ask one simple question. Has the owner done anything towards the increase? What is his contribution towards the increase of price on account of which he now claims that he should have the whole of it? In fact on principle, I am even against the amendment which has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar. Government should not acquire anything permanently; allow lands to remain on lease till prices come down, so that ultimately the owners will be willing to take back the land as it is without any compensation. Government can certainly play that waiting game. But if Government is anxious to purchase the land, then the question arises, with whose money Government is going to purchase it? There are properties in Bombay, Calcutta and other urban centres, where prices have gone up tremendously. It is obvious that the money must come from the poor taxpayer. But I am prepared to accept this amendment as a sort of *via media*. One hundred per cent. increase is also too much but in certain cases some principle has got to be

[S^{rs}. N. V. Gadgil]

accepted. In the Town Planning Act, Mr. Deputy President, you know very well that 50 per cent. of the final value is taken from the person who owns the property for the improvements that are likely to take place. At least we must take 50 per cent. As far as one is able to see prices have gone up 200 per cent. and if we can give 100 per cent. increase to the owner certainly it is "not so negligible as is sought to be made out by my friend Mr. Bhargava. Therefore instead of giving them the full market value of today what is proposed under the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar is fair and just in the circumstances. It is much better from the taxpayers' point of view than would be the case, if matters were entirely left as my friend Mr. Bhargava desires. Therefore I support this amendment.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That for clause 6 of the Bill the following clause be substituted, namely:—

'6 (1) In respect of the continued subjection of requisitioned land to requisition under this Act or the Ordinance, compensation shall be determined and paid in accordance with the provisions of section 19 of the Defence of India Act, 1938, and of the rules made thereunder:

Provided that all agreements and awards under the said section in respect of the payment of compensation for the period of requisition before the expiry of the said Act shall continue to be in force and shall apply to the payment of compensation for the period of requisition after such expiry.

(2) In respect of any acquisition of requisitioned land under this Act or the Ordinance, the amount of compensation payable shall be such sum as would be sufficient to purchase at the market rate prevailing on the date of the notice under section 5 a piece of land equal in area, to, and situated within a distance of three miles from, the acquired land, and suitable for the same use as that to which the acquired land was being put immediately before the date of its requisition or a sum equivalent to twice the market value of the acquired land on the date of its requisition, whichever is less; and such amount shall be determined and paid in accordance with the procedure set out in the aforesaid section 19 and the rules made thereunder.

(3) For the purposes of sub-section (1) all the provisions of the aforesaid section 19 and of the rules made thereunder, and for the purposes of sub-section (2) such of those provisions as relate to matters of procedure, shall be deemed to be continuing in force."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That clause 6 as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 as amended, was added to the Bill.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir I beg to move—

"That for sub-clause (2) of clause 7 of the Bill the following sub-clause be substituted, namely:

'(2) Every person required to furnish such information as is referred to in sub-section (1) shall be deemed to be legally bound to do so within the meaning of sections 175 and 176 of the Indian Penal Code.'—"

The present section as it reads deals with two classes of cases firstly, those in which information is required to be furnished and the information is not given and secondly, cases in which wrong or false information is given. It penalises both kinds of cases. My amendment is directed to one aspect of the case only, because according to Section 193 of the I. P. C. the other thing is provided in that Code and need not be referred to here. This amendment has been taken from Section 10 of Act I of 1894 and the words used are practically the same. That section required that any person who was ordered to furnish particular information was bound under law to furnish that information and in case he did not furnish he was held to be guilty of the offence under Sections 175 and 176 of the Indian Penal Code. Act I of 1894 is the law of the land and these temporary measures are all make shifts or substitutes to that provision and as such these must be correlated to that Act, which is based on almost universal principles. I beg to suggest to the House that this is enough for our purposes, if we

substitute this amendment for the proposed provision. I am glad that the Honourable the Defence Secretary has been pleased to say that he is agreeable to accept it. I therefore beg to move the amendment.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved:

"That for sub-clause (2) of clause 7 of the Bill the following sub-clause be substituted, namely:

"(2) Every person required to furnish such information as is referred to in sub-section (1) shall be deemed to be legally bound to do so within the meaning of sections 175 and 176 of the Indian Penal Code."

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: As I indicated previously, Government have no objection to accepting the principle of the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava. Now that the war is over we wish to come back to normal conditions as far as possible. Therefore we do not wish to have severer powers than are necessary. But I suggest that instead of Sections 175 and 176 of the Indian Penal Code, Sections 176 and 177 should be substituted, because Section 175 relates to omission to produce document to a public servant by a person legally bound to produce it. There is no question of producing such document here. Section 176 refers to omission to give notice of information to a public servant by a person legally bound to give it and Section 177 refers to furnishing false information. These are the two Sections which we wish to be incorporated rather than Sections 175 and 176.

Mr. Deputy President: I suppose the Honourable Member has no objection to this.

Fundit Thakur Das Bhargava: After hearing what the Honourable Member said about the Sections I think reference to Sections 176 and 177 will be more appropriate than to Sections 175 and 176.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is.

"That for sub-clause (2) of clause 7 of the Bill the following sub-clause be substituted, namely:

"(2) Every person required to furnish such information as is referred to in sub-section (1) shall be deemed to be legally bound to do so within the meaning of sections 175 and 176 of the Indian Penal Code."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That clause 7 as amended, stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended was added to the Bill.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I beg to oppose clause 8. If this clause is deleted the structure of this piece of legislation will not in the least be affected and the Government will not be deprived of the powers which they seek under this Act. On the other hand, if the powers are delegated to an officer it will be very undesirable to delegate such extraordinary powers as are being given under this Act to an officer. Once they are delegated to an officer and once that officer exercises those powers Government will be powerless to interfere with the order passed by that particular officer. When you are investing Government with such extraordinary power there should be no provision for the delegation of the powers to any officer. I therefore hope that the House would agree to this clause being deleted. This does not affect the legislation at all.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I suggest that the proposition made by my Honourable friend is not a practical one. Neither the Central Government nor the Provincial Government can themselves perform the various functions which are described in the other clauses of the Bill. They must perform these functions through their agents. For instance when a land has to be requisitioned, it is the Collector of the district who can requisition it. Even the Collector himself is not in a position often to do this himself and he has to delegate his powers to

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I am afraid I have not been understood by my Honourable friend. There is no bar to the enquiries and everything of that nature being done by the officer, but the final direction should always be passed by the Government and not by an officer.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: We cannot, Sir, make a distinction like that. In order to enable Government to carry out the various functions under the Bill it is necessary that Government should delegate some of those functions to their agents. *Prima facie* it is impracticable. I therefore oppose the motion.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 9 and 10 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Shavax A. Lal (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 1 of the Bill, for the figures '1946', the figures '1947' be substituted."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 1 of the Bill, for the figures '1946', the figures '1947' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1 as amended was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (CONTROL) BILL.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to continue for a limited period powers to prohibit or control imports and exports, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The House is aware that when this Bill was introduced I explained the urgency of passing legislation of this character. The economy of the country is now undergoing a change from a wartime economy to a peacetime economy and we find that there is a great shortage of several articles and commodities in the country. Unless we restrict the export of these commodities and articles, the people of this country will be put to great hardship. On the import side we have to choose which commodities and articles should be allowed to be imported into the country and how best we should utilise the exchange which is available to us. Incidentally we have to ensure that the imports do not result in killing any industries in the country. During the war the powers of controlling the imports and exports were vested in Government as a result of the Defence of India Act and Rules. After the Defence of India Rules ceased to be enforced, an Ordinance was passed for the purpose of continuing those powers. That ordinance expires on the 24th March 1947. It is necessary that these powers should

be vested in Government before that day. The Bill was referred to the Select Committee and the question was fully discussed in the Select Committee. The only changes made by the Select Committee are in the definition clause, clause 2 and the addition of new clause 6 regarding the cognizance of offences. It has been found necessary to provide that no Court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under section 5 except upon complaint in writing made by a Customs Collector or by an officer of Customs authorised in writing in this behalf by a Customs Collector and no Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class shall try any such offence. This is to prevent certain frivolous or malicious prosecutions being launched against some persons without any authority from Government. With these changes, the Select Committee has accepted the other provisions of the Bill and I hope the House will pass the Bill as it is.

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to continue for a limited period powers to prohibit or control imports and exports, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal European): Mr Deputy President, Sir, when I moved for reference of this Bill to Select Committee you will remember that there were no less than 3 Select Committee motions on the Order Paper. It will therefore come as a bit of surprise to you that after these three Select Committee motions the Bill should come back in substantially the same form as that in which it went to the Select Committee. It will also come as a slight surprise to you that after the long and very interesting and very definite debate on the question of controls that took place in this House two or three days ago, in spite of the unanimous feeling in this House that controls should be restricted by every possible means, even in spite of that feeling in the House, this Bill has come back more or less unaltered. So, Sir, I find myself at a considerable disadvantage in speaking about a Bill which seems to me to carry a number of inconsistencies.

In the first place this Bill is a perpetuation of a war measure. I consider that it is necessary to consider in connection with this Bill how many of the clauses covered by this Bill are really war clauses, whether the purpose for which those provisions were made is still necessary to be fulfilled. Let me for instance just quote very briefly from clause 3(1) (b) which says:

"The Central Government may, by order published in the official Gazette, make provision for prohibiting, restricting or otherwise controlling, in all cases or in specified classes of cases, and subject to such exceptions, if any, as may be made by or under the order,—
the bringing into any port or place in British India of goods of any specified description intended to be taken out of British India without being removed from the ship or conveyance in which they are being carried."

What was the purpose of this clause? Clearly it was to control goods which it was thought might go to a foreign country and might be used against us in the war. By this means all the ports in our great coast line were forbidden for a certain class of goods. What is the value of that clause today? Can the Commerce Member tell me what value that clause will be to him? We have port rules to protect the country in the case of bringing in explosives, things that are dangerous but what is the use of this clause? I suggest that it is really a war time measure, which is being carried forward in peace time. That being so, I suggest that there is still room for considerable examination of this Bill.

Let us go just a little bit further and consider clause 3(2). This enhances the penalty that an importer shall suffer for importing goods or otherwise misbehaving under the terms of this Bill. Why were these penalties enhanced? Because in war time, Government could not risk these offences being committed and so they raised the penalties that the Customs could impose on a person who contravenes these provisions. Do not think for one moment that that particular clause is the only penal clause under this Bill. At the end of it you will find provisions whereby if the provisions of this Bill are contravened a man may not

[Mr. C. P. Lawson.]

only be fined without limit but may also be sent to prison. Why then increase the powers of a non-judicial officer to punish the importers. Once again I suggest that that shows that in transferring these war measures to peace time very much more consideration has to be given.

Now, Sir, the Bill as it stands before the House is to be in force for three years. In other words this House, in spite of the clearly expressed opinion that it gave regarding controls generally two or three days ago is now prepared to give Government blanket powers in the question of complete control of the imports and exports for a period of three years without qualification. Is that consistent with the opinion expressed by this House? Would it be consistent with the views of Prof. Ranga who, although he was not satisfied with the reply of the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies, yet withdrew his motion? When Prof. Ranga said that, there were signs of the cracking of the "whip" and may be in this question also we shall hear the cracking of the "whip". But in spite of that, I still suggest that this Bill requires more consideration, that in handing out blanket powers of a very wide nature to the Government this House will be acting inconsistently.

Sir, the House will have noted that I have attached to this Bill a minute of dissent which enumerates some of the points which require alterations on the floor of the House. I should have liked other matters in the Bill to have been altered as well and as I said when I moved for reference to Select Committee, this was a matter which should not have been rushed through in two or three days or two or three weeks or even in two or three months. The question of the transfer of war legislation to peace conditions is really a matter for circulation. It is really a matter on which we should have taken opinions from all interested parties by circulating the Bill at the beginning of the last session. That would have been the proper way to deal with it. I personally have no legal abilities or propensities but I am not satisfied that in placing this legislation on the statute-book, we are doing so with full consideration of whether we are not transferring to the statute-book provisions which were meant for war times and not for peace times. I know that the Honourable the Commerce Member will tell me that the times are still abnormal and I will agree with him, but I will not agree with him that we should now legislate in the same manner as we would have legislated two or three years ago. There are different considerations at stake, there should be different penalties and there should be different provisions. The point which I particularly brought to his notice regarding the use of sub-clause (b) of clause 3(1) should I think give him matter for thought and perhaps when he replies to this debate, he will explain to this House what particular powers which are not now in existence he requires to use by providing this sub-clause 3(1)(b) in this Bill. And that is my instance.

Now, Sir, I merely wanted to make those few remarks in order to make the position of my Group clear regarding this Bill. We have no intention whatever in holding up legislation which we know is absolutely necessary and which we know must become law by the 25th March. But if there is any impatience on the part of the Government Benches or on the part of anyone in this House for the amendments that we have put forward and for the delays which those amendments naturally entail, I will suggest to those complainants that the fault is not ours. As the situation is, we are passing legislation. We are turning war time legislation into peace time legislation. In my opinion, with undue haste. This is not the only measure in which we shall have to think this matter over carefully. Some of the Bills introduced this morning equally are measures which applied to war conditions and which will now need to be transferred to peace conditions, and I still must say regretfully that it is wrong that there should be this rush legislation. So, Sir, I shall explain the amendments, in

greater detail when the time comes for moving them, and, in the meantime, we on this side will support the motion for consideration.

Mr. P. B. Gole (Berar: Non-Muhammadian): Mr. Deputy President, I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson that this is a Bill of very far-reaching importance and it will have to be considered in detail before it is rushed through so hastily. In fact, it would have been much better if a Bill of this nature, although it is a very short one, were circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. At the time when it was referred to the Select Committee we were told that the period of Ordinance expires by the 25th March and it is necessary to have those powers which the Ordinance gave them for some time more. In fact, the House at that time had perhaps no time to consider the provisions of the Bill and the effects of the Bill on the export and import trade. Since it was referred to the Select Committee, we have had sufficient time to consider it. Really speaking, I find that in view of the existing law, it is unnecessary to have such wide powers in peace times. It was all right when the war was on, but in peace conditions I do not see any necessity for these powers. The object of the Bill seems to be to restrict imports and exports, and if the Government possesses those powers under the existing law, I do not see the necessity of having a new enactment. In fact, I may draw your attention to section 19 of the Sea Customs Act. That section provides that the Central Government may, from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, prohibit or restrict the bringing or taking by sea or by land of goods of any specified description into or out of British India. That gives sufficient powers to the Government to restrict or prohibit any import or export of goods. This law stands from 1878 and if these powers are already vested in the Central Government, I do not see the necessity of this war time legislation being continued even during the peace times. What I am afraid of is that under the powers that are being given under Bill there will be widespread corruption, nepotism and favouritism and that should be avoided in peace times at least. I suppose, as was just now observed by my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson, so far as controls are concerned, they are no longer wanted. They are being resented and I think the controls, apart from the merit or demerit of them, have demoralised the society to such an extent that all of them are sinking into the nostrils of everybody. It is true that controls are a necessary evil sometimes and therefore for some time they should be continued. In fact, the other day, while discussing the cut motions, food was a factor which was excluded from the de-controlling because we find India today is in the grip of famine. Therefore for some time equal distribution of food is a necessity and for that purpose control may be necessary, although it may bring in its wake certain undesirable factors. But it is not so here. So far as powers to restrict exports and imports are concerned, as was just now observed by the Honourable Member in charge, and in order that the indigenous industries may not be affected, that power does exist today. For instance, even after the Ordinance was promulgated and which Ordinance is going to expire on the 25th March, I find goods, not of necessity but of luxury, are being flooded in the market and I do not see any attempt being made on the part of the Government to restrict such goods. On the contrary, they are coming in such large numbers and at such high prices that it is very difficult to control them. I do not understand why the Honourable Member in charge has not taken any steps to check them. He hails from Bombay and he must have noted what is happening. Although he has got the powers under the Ordinance, he has not controlled them so far. But my view is this that in taking these powers under the new Act and this is going to remain on the statute book for three years, there is the further danger of corruption and demoralisation. Sir, we are living in days of democracy and we expect at least the fundamental principles of democracy to be observed. That fundamental rule of democracy is that such wide powers should not be given to Government and no individual member should be restricted and Government should be given the least powers where these would be absolutely necessary, but beyond this to give wide powers in the same way as they are sought to be taken

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[17TH MAY 1947]

[Mr. P. B. Gole.]
under this Bill it is most dangerous to democracy. I therefore think that instead of having this Bill if we had heard something from the Honourable Member as to why section 19 of the Sea Customs Act is not effective and not enough, but further more powers are required in order to restrict import and export of

5 P.M. certain commodities then I would have very well understood

Mr. Deputy President. If the Honourable Member will take some more time to finish his speech then the House will adjourn now.

Mr. P. B. Gole. I will take some more time. Sir.

Mr. Deputy President. The House will now adjourn.

The Assembly then adjourned till eleven of the clock on Tuesday the 18th March 1947.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 18th March, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Mr Mangalore Puroshotam Pai, M L A (Government of India Nominated Official)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

ROLLING STOCK ENGAGED IN RUNNING MILITARY SPECIAL TRAIN.

1005. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) the number of military specials run by Government from June 1946 to December 1946, and

(b) the number of rolling stock which is still engaged in running these military specials, and whether any attempts are being made to reconvert it for civilian use?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Military trains are divided into two categories: Military Mail trains which run at regular intervals between specific stations carrying Service personnel on leave or duty as individuals or small parties and Military Special trains which are run as required for large parties of Service personnel. During the period June to December 1946, 2851 Military Mails and 912 Military Special trains were run.

(b) The latest information available is up to the 28th February 1947, on which date 627 coaching vehicles of various classes were still retained by the Defence Department for their exclusive use. Since the cessation of hostilities, the Defence Department have been releasing rolling stock as and when it has become surplus to military requirements and these releases continue. The Railway Board have throughout kept in close touch with the Movements Directorate, G H.Q. (I) with a view to ensuring that coaching stock is returned to railways as speedily as possible. Coaching stock released by the Defence Department is placed in civilian service as quickly as the necessary repairs and reconditioning permit.

PURCHASE OF RUSSIAN NEWSPRINT BY VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT

1006. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Venezuelan Government have bought 4,000 tons of Russian newsprint for about Rs. 80 lakhs;

(b) whether the Government of India have approached the Soviet Government with a demand for newsprint; and

(c) if so whether there is any possibility of getting newsprint from the U. S. S. R. ?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Mr. M. P. Pai: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Some offers of supply have been received from suppliers of Russian newsprint and these have been passed on to the trade. It is understood that orders have been placed by some firms for Russian newsprint and others are under negotiation.

MANUFACTURE OF DYESTUFFS IN INDIA

1007. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state what financial interest the Government of India have in the proposed scheme for the manufacture of dyestuffs in India?

(b) What is the set-up of this scheme and what is the role of the Tata Company and the Imperial Chemical Industries therein?

(c) Have Government any particulars of the proposal or the negotiations?

(d) Have the terms been already fixed, or are they under negotiation?

(e) Did Government depute Dr. Venkataraman to Germany and to meet officers of the Imperial Chemical Industries in Europe and, if so, in what capacity and on what terms?

(f) What was the cost incurred by Government?

Mr. M. P. Pai: (a) The Government of India have no financial interest in the set-up referred to in Clause (b) or in any other scheme for the manufacture of dyestuffs in India.

(b), (c) and (d) I understand that some negotiations are in progress for the formation of a Tata ICI combine for manufacturing dyestuffs in India, but beyond that Government have no information.

(e) Dr. Venkataraman was one of 48 technicians selected and sent by the Government of India to Germany to study and report on the development in technique in various industries during the war. Their reports were to be submitted to the British Intelligence Objectives Sub-Committee (under whose auspices these visits were arranged) and also direct to the Government of India with reference to the development of Indian Industries. Dr. Venkataraman investigated the Dyestuffs Industry. He has returned to India, and his report is awaited.

He was a technical consultant of Messrs Tata Sons Ltd for their Dyestuffs project before he visited Germany; and in that capacity he visited the I.C.I. factories during his brief stay in England before he visited Germany. On completion of his work in Germany he proceeded to the U.S.A. where he studied the dyestuffs organisations and chemical industries (on behalf of Tatas)—for which the expenses were not borne by the Government of India.

(f) The expenditure incurred by the Government of India on his deputation to Germany was about Rs. 3,000.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member said that they have no information with regard to parts (b), (c) and (d). May I know if Government are using the Capital Registration Department or their own department or some other machinery for getting information with regard to compact arrangements between Indians and foreigners and the terms and conditions in order to see that these are fair to India?

Mr. M. P. Pai: This is specially a matter for consideration when an application is actually made for the issue of capital or for the import of capital goods. On the general issue there was a debate in this House about a month ago and the policy of Government should have been made fairly clear then.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Having regard to the criticisms of such ventures which are frequently coming out, will the Honourable Member examine in his department the desirability of issuing a press note giving Government's general view as to the nature of these combinations?

Mr. M. P. Pai: Yes, Sir, the question will be considered.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Was Dr. Venkataraman sent to investigate the possibility of manufacturing aniline dyes in India?

Mr. M. P. Pai: He was one of 48 technicians sent to Germany to study the development and technique in respect of various industries, and the intention is that the reports sent by these technicians will be generally available to anybody in India.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am talking of aniline dyes. After the last great war the British, Americans and Frenchmen tried to get the secret of aniline dyes and failed.

Mr. M. P. Pai: The purpose of his visit was to study the dyestuffs industry in all its aspects and not particularly in regard to aniline dyes.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: In view of many such combines coming into existence and many being in the offing, will Government make the position clear that they do not view with equanimity these combines which got into partnership with foreigners?

Mr. M. P. Pai: That is a general question on which the Advisory Planning Board have made certain suggestions which are now under the consideration of Government.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: When will Government finish the consideration of that report and declare their policy?

Mr. M. P. Pai: I can hardly answer that and say how long they will take, the report is now before Government.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: What steps are Government taking to safeguard Indian interests in the meantime?

Mr. M. P. Pai: There are means by which Government can check any undesirable combinations (a) through the check exercised through capital issues control, and (b) through check exercised through import of capital goods.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: I know they can check, but are they actually doing it?

Mr. M. P. Pai: Yes, Sir, Government are doing it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are Government taking to encourage the establishment of a factory or a number of factories for the manufacture of dyestuffs in India?

Mr. M. P. Pai: It will be left to private enterprise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is anything being done by private enterprise or by Government at present?

Mr. M. P. Pai: Quite a number of companies have either gone into formation or propose to go into formation for the production of dyestuffs in India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government giving any specific encouragement to these people?

Mr. M. P. Pai: No special encouragement is given, but the same encouragement as is given to any industry of importance.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIANS FOR TRAINING AT THE IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES WORKS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF DYESTUFFS

1008. ***Mr. Mann Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how many scholarships have been sanctioned for the training of Indian graduates at the Imperial Chemical Industries Works in connection with the manufacture of dye-stuffs?

(b) How many have been availed of and by whom?

(c) Do Government propose to give an assurance to this House that the controlling interest in this enterprise in India will be both directly and indirectly in Indian hands?

Mr. M. P. Pai: (a) None

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government will bear this in mind, whenever it is possible to shape it in that manner.

DISPOSAL OF TIMBER BY THE DISPOSALS DEPARTMENT

1009. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the amount of timber the Disposals Department got for disposal upto the latest available date when declarations of surplus were made?

(b) How much of this has been disposed of?

(c) What is the range of prices realised for (i) Burma teak, (ii) country teak, and (iii) other varieties?

(d) How much has been retained by Central Government Departments?

(e) Which are these Departments and for what purposes have they retained this timber?

(f) How much has been taken over by the Provincial Governments and for what purposes?

(g) Have Government taken any steps to see that the timber goes to the consumers, i.e., parties interested in building, and, if so, what steps?

Mr. M. P. Pai: (a) Supply Department's holdings of timber on 1st January 1946 were approximately 3,60,000 tons. The whole of this stock was not a true surplus as Central Government's requirements were expected to continue (although at a reduced rate) throughout 1946 and delivery against certain outstanding balances had yet to be completed. In addition to the Supply Department's stocks, *ad hoc* surplus declarations of timber were received from the Defence Services upto the end of 1946 totalling approximately 75,000 tons.

(b) Approximately 2,36,500 tons upto 31st December 1946

(c) (i) Rs 7 to Rs 30 per c ft

(ii) Rs 2-2-0 to Rs. 14-4-0 per c ft

(iii) Rs 0-12-0 to Rs. 4-8-0 per c ft.

(d), (e) and (f) During the year 1946, demands from Railways, Central Public Works, Defence and Food Departments of the Central Government were met to the extent of 47,000 tons. During the same period, the Governments of U.P., C.P. and Bombay took over nearly 1,30,000 tons

(g) The respective Provincial Governments who purchased timber are responsible for equitable distribution within their own territories. In the case of other Provinces Provincial Forest Departments, who normally cater for the consumer's requirements within their respective areas act as Disposal Agents of the I & S Department. Since the bulk of timber has either been transferred to the Provincial Governments or is being disposed of by their Forest Departments, it can be assumed that the Provincial Governments concerned are looking after the requirements of the consumers.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government examined the question as to whether Government Departments who take this timber are not merely holding it over like dog in the manger and whether it is true that they are taking over timber in larger quantities than they can use in the immediate future and in some cases for some years to come?

Mr. M. P. Pal: Government have no reason to think that any department is indenting in excess of its requirements. All requirements are carefully examined and the volume of demand is much below what it was during recent years.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that large quantities have been taken for the Sindri factory which they are not likely to use for the next two years and that by this policy the civil population are deprived of timber, which is scarce, for building houses?

Mr. M. P. Pal: If the Honourable Member wants to know what quantity of timber has been taken over by Sindri factory, I want notice of this question.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are not these things sold by auction and if so how is the price level, to which the Honourable Member referred, maintained?

Mr. M. P. Pal: If the Honourable Member means the timber which is sold on behalf of the Central Government the usual practice is to sell it by auction, though occasionally timber is sold by negotiation. I have no information about the manner in which the Provincial Governments sell their stock of timber.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that Government are permitting from this disposal stock export of timber, which is very badly required in this country for Government and the civil population, to His Majesty's Government or abroad, and, if that is so, will Government examine the position and stop all exports of timber from this country?

Mr. M. P. Pal: No timber has been exported to His Majesty's Government for a long time, for at least a year so far as my memory goes. One small lot has been exported from the West Coast. It arose in Cochin and the Cochin Government gave us to understand that it was surplus to their requirements. It was a lot of jungle timber in which I do not think the people in the locality had any particular interest.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not a fact that His Majesty's Government are taking up timber from this country for ship-building purposes whereas this timber is required for this country's civil population as well as Government? Will the Honourable Member look into this matter and if that is so, will he see that no further exports take place?

Mr. M. P. Pal: I will have it examined.

SCARCITY OF JUTE BAGS AND ITS EFFECT ON PRICE OF CEMENT.

1010. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the suggestion of Sir H. P. Mody appearing in the "Free Press Journal" dated 18th January, 1947, that prices of cement should be raised, because of the difficulty in obtaining jute bags?

(b) Have Government received such a suggestion officially?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to see that the conditions for the supply of jute bags improve and that prices of cement are not raised?

(d) Is it a fact that the total output of cement in India has been reduced and, if so, do Government propose to provide for increased output so as to reduce automatically the price per unit?

Mr. M. P. Pal: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The whole question was very carefully looked into and Government have agreed to increase the price from Rs. 60 to Rs. 65 per ton.

(c) The Honourable Member is doubtless aware that there is now no control on the price of jute bags. I would be grateful for any suggestions which may be made for improving the supply of jute bags.

(d) The total output of cement has not gone down as compared with the previous figures although very recent figures show a slight downward trend.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why such a heavy increase as Rs. 5 per ton has been agreed to merely because of the jute-bag issue, and since my, Honourable friend wanted suggestions may I know whether second-hand bags could not be reconditioned for use....

Mr. President: Suggestions will not be permissible by questions and answers.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know then whether the increased cost of jute bags justifies an increase of Rs. 5 per ton in the price of cement, and may I also know whether there were any other reasons for which this increase was agreed to?

Mr. M. P. Pal: The increase in the element of cost represented by jute bags comes very nearly to Rs. 5 per ton.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: The Honourable Member referred to the downward trend in the output of cement. Is he in a position to say whether an enquiry has been made into the factors that may have contributed to this trend?

Mr. M. P. Pal: It is not very great, it is somewhere near 5 per cent. It is not so serious that the Government should investigate into the factors responsible for it:

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Are the Government assured that the output will increase in the near future?

Mr. M. P. Pal: What is holding up the supply of cement is not so much production as transport.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member tell me where I could get some cement as I have not been able to get any though I have been in great need trying very hard to get it in Benares and Jaunpore?

(No reply was given)

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the rise in the price of bags is due to the fact that bags are not available, or whether it is due to lack of transport facilities? What are the reasons?

Mr. M. P. Pal: It is due to an increase in the market price. When the control was on, jute bags were selling roughly at Rs. 37/8/- a hundred. The price today is, I believe, somewhere about Rs. 75 a hundred.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What is the reply to my question? Where am I to get cement?

Mr. President: Order, order Next question.

RISE IN WAGES AND PRICES AND ITS EFFECT ON COMMODITIES

1011. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state what steps Government are taking to see that the spiral of wages and prices does not affect most of the commodities in India, in which production appears to have fallen, such as steel, paper, sugar, cloth and cement?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing a Price Board, which will go into these issues as and when they arise?

(c) Have Government examined whether the units of production in all cases are economic and whether the necessity for raising prices cannot be avoided by increasing production?

(d) How do the prices-cum-duty of imported articles in the five categories mentioned in part (a) compare with the controlled selling prices in this country?

Mr. M. P. Pal: (a) The Government are ever mindful of the effect of a rise in wages and prices on the production of articles in short supply. The prices of all these commodities are reviewed periodically and the interests of the consumer and the need for increasing production are kept in view when the prices are fixed. There has been a steady decrease in the controlled prices of steel, paper and cloth since 1944. The production of paper, sugar and cement has considerably increased as compared with the prewar years.

(b) A Commodity Prices Board has been set up to go into these issues.

(c) Excepting a few Steel Re-rolling Mills, a few old Paper Mills and some Textile Mills, all the units of production of the articles in question are believed to be economic. Every possible step is being taken to convert the uneconomic units into economic ones and technical advice and assistance for the procurement of machinery, raw material, etc. are given. Every endeavour is being made to increase production of all commodities in short supply.

(d) There has so far been no import of sugar and cement. But it may be stated generally that retail selling prices of all imported articles of the five categories in question are higher than the controlled selling prices of the indigenous articles of comparable quality. A statement showing the ceiling prices of a few broad categories of indigenous and imported articles is laid on the table.

Statement

Description	PRICES					
	Indigenous			Imported		
	Rs	A	P	Rs	A	P
I. PAPER						
1. Bleached printing paper	0	7	5	0	14	5 per lb
	to 0 8 5 per lb plus addition of price of 3 pies per lb if supercalender					
2. Bleached writing paper						
(a) Cream laid or wove	do			0	13	7 ,
				to		
				0	14	5 ,
(b) Bonds and ledgers	0	7	5	0	13	9 ,
	to			to		
	0	11	2	1	6	2
	plus additional price from 3 pies to 6 annas per lb for supercalender and rag finish					
3. White cartridge	0	7	5	1	0	10
4. Kraft paper	0	7	3	0	11	6 ,
	to			to		
	0	8	3	0	12	4
5. White blotting	0	11	8	0	11	11 ,
				to		
				1	6	4 ,

Description	PRICES					
	Indigenous			Imported.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
II. CLOTH						
6 Heavy sheeting (Coarse)	0	8	1	1	0	11 per yard
7. Shooting Gray (Medium)	0	8	0	0	14	0 „
8. Print Cloth (Medium)	0	8	6	0	12	3 „
9. Lawn (Super fine)	0	13	0	0	13	7 „
10. Grey Sheeting (fine)	0	6	5	0	9	1 „
11. Grey Mull (Super fine).	0	14	7	1	2	7 „
12. White Mull (fine)	0	13	6	1	1	4 „
III. STEEL						
13 B r	235	0	0	Landed cost {	359	5 9 per ton
14. Joists.	225	0	0		322	12 10 „
15. Galv. used Sheets	320	0	0		610	3 2 „
16. Tinplates	523	9	7		547	10 3 „
17. Billets	166	0	0		221	6 5 „

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why paper prices are maintained so high and whether Government will not endeavour to make a re-examination of the control prices of paper produced in this country?

Mr. M. P. Pai: The present prices were fixed, Sir, sometime last July or August, after a very careful scrutiny, and Government have no reason to think that the costs of production have gone down since then.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (c) what are the steps that Government are taking to help uneconomic units to come to economic levels of efficiency?

Mr. M. P. Pai: It all depends on the facts of each case.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But has Government got any control, legislative or administrative, over the management of these industrial concerns to help or force them to increase their level of efficiency and thus become economic units?

Mr. M. P. Pai: There is no means of forcing them but our officers do visit these mills periodically and when they think anything should be done to improve production they give such advice as they are capable of doing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who are those officers? How are they designated?

Mr. M. P. Pai: They are on the staff of the Director General of Industries and Supplies.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government examine the proposal to suspend duty on the import of paper for one or two years until the much unsatisfied demand for paper for book publication in this country is met by the import of paper from abroad?

Mr. M. P. Pai: The Government do not believe that a reduction of the import duty is likely to increase supplies. Most exporting countries work on the basis of certain quotas to their own normal customers, and the quota fixed for India is not likely to go up merely because the import duty is reduced.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government examine the question with a view to destroy the black-market? As soon as the suspension of import duty is announced, will not hoarded stocks of any paper come into the market? Is it not true that there are hoarded stocks?

Mr. M. P. Pai: No, Sir. I do not think it would be correct to say that there are hoarded stocks of paper. In fact for the last few months, the paper position has been easier than it has been previously.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Do I understand correctly that the abolition of the import duty on paper will not tend to diminish the price level in this country?

Mr. M. P. Pai: It would reduce the price of the imported paper certainly. But it would have no effect on the prices of the indigenous papers which are well below the price of imported paper. That apart, most of the imported papers consist of specialized categories not produced in India and the prices of those categories would have no effect on the prices of paper manufactured and sold in India.

PRICES OF MOTOR CARS.

†1012. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the prices of motor cars have gone up by about 80 per cent. since the de-control of their prices?

(b) Is it a fact that Government gave an assurance that if the prices rise considerably, the control will be re-introduced?

(c) Do Government propose to introduce the control again?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me on the 17th February, 1947, in this House to Question No. 335, by Sardar Mangal Singh.

(b) Government did not give any assurance that Central control would be re-introduced if prices rose considerably.

GOVERNMENT PURCHASE MISSION FOR BUYING OF MACHINERY AND OTHER CAPITAL GOODS

†1013. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Government Purchase Mission for the selection and buying of machineries or other capital goods in other countries; and

(b) if so, where they are stationed, their area of operation and their progress of work so far?

Mr. M. P. Pai: (a) and (b). Yes. The Purchasing Organisations have been set up by the Government of India to buy machinery and stores on its behalf in other countries.

They are (i) The India Store Department located in Blackpool, England. Its operations extend over Europe, and (ii) The India Supply Mission located in Washington, U.S.A. Its operations extend over North America.

The progress of work of these organisations depends on the orders placed on them by Government Departments in India, from time to time and naturally varies with the demands made. I place on the table a statement showing the approximate figures of value of stores purchased by the two organisations during the past few years.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Statement showing the approximate figures of value of stores purchased by I. S. D and I S M. during the past few years.

India Store Department, Blackpool.

Year	Rs. (in l. khs)
1941-42	800
1942-43	1,300
1943-44	933
1944-45	1,366
1945-46	2,730

Indian Supply Mission, Washington

Year	L/L Purchases (in l. khs)	Non-L/L Purchases (in lakhs)	Total (in lakhs)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1941	643	21	664
1942	2,102	43	2,145
1943	2,710	643	3,362
1944	1,957	3,992	5,949
1945	241	371	612
1946	..	2,423	2,423

NATIONALISATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT

†1014. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Transport please state the policy of Government in regard to Nationalisation of Road Transport?

(b) Do Government propose to appoint a Committee to consider as to what extent the Provincial Governments' proposals for Road Transport will affect the revenues of the Central and Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given on the 28th October, 1946, to starred question No. 3, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh.

(b) No. As I stated in this House when I introduced the Railway Budget, any expenditure on Railway participation in Provincial road transport schemes will be subject to detailed approval by the Standing Finance Committee. The effect of such schemes on Provincial revenues is entirely the affair of the Province concerned.

1015. [Withdrawn]

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA IN 1947

†1016. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please make a statement regarding the food prospects in India during the year 1947?

(b) What is the state of the harvests for 1947 and what are the prospects of imports of foodgrains into India during the next six months?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) and (b). Owing to our being unable to obtain the imports we needed in 1946 we started 1947 with low stocks. The stock position, taking the country as a whole, has improved as far as rice is concerned but the effect of the poor wheat crop of last year and the fact that part of it was used to feed the deficit rice-eating South has led to acute wheat shortage at this time. Imports of wheat have been unequal to our needs and to-day though there are sufficient overall stocks of all grains to support rationing there is a scarcity of wheat. The rice crop has been good in Bengal and fair in Madras, Bihar, Orissa and Eastern States. It has been poor in Bombay, C. P. and in parts of Sind. On the whole it is estimated that the out-turn of rice is better than that of the poor crop of last year. As far as Rabi is concerned the condition of standing crops is good in Northern India but severe damage by rust has been caused to the wheat crop in Central Provinces, Hyderabad, Bombay, Central India and Gwalior.

We shall continue to need imports on a large scale but no allocations have yet been made by the International Emergency Food Council for the second half year of 1947 and it is impossible to say at present how much we shall be able to import and in what grains.

LEGISLATION FOR STABILISING THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY OF INDIA

†1017. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state if Government propose to introduce legislation to stabilise the agricultural economy of India?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing an Expert Committee to consider measures for the removal of the pressure of population and raise the status of agriculture in the country?

Sir Pheroze Kharega: (a) Legislation affecting agriculture is primarily a provincial responsibility, but in respect of Centrally Administered Areas it is proposed to introduce legislation for the regulation of money-lending, for the relief of agricultural indebtedness, for the regulation of agricultural produce markets, for the consolidation of holdings and the prevention of fragmentation, for tenancy rights and for land development. Further action will be taken in the light of the recommendations of the Committees on Agricultural Finance, Land Utilisation, Agricultural Prices, Agricultural Marketing and Co-operative Planning and Development which are all still under consideration.

(b) Government do not consider another committee necessary. These matters have already been examined by the Committees just mentioned as also by the Royal Commission on Agriculture and the Famine Commission. Moreover, the several development schemes which are under the consideration of the Central and Provincial Governments will also, when put into operation, help to relieve the pressure on land by providing more opportunities for employment.

REPORT OF THE DISPOSALS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

1018. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether the Disposals Enquiry Committee appointed by Government by a resolution dated 17th October 1946 has submitted its report?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) If so, what are its conclusions on the various issues connected with its enquiry?

(c) What action do Government propose to take on the Committee's report?

(d) If the Committee has not yet submitted its report, when is it likely to do so?

Mr. M. P. Pai: (a) to (d). The Disposals Enquiry Committee's Report which was submitted on the 1st March 1947 was considered by the Disposals Board on the 14th March 1947. The Report will be discussed with the Standing Advisory Committee of the Legislature for the Industries and Supplies Department before final orders are passed. The report and the decisions on the Report will soon be published.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has this report covered the disposal of the various buildings that were built during the war and which are now being either destroyed or dismantled?

Mr. M. P. Pai: I want notice of that question.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the report contain the discussion that the artificial raising of the prices of the articles in the disposal directorate have put up the price level throughout India?

Mr. M. P. Pai: Since the whole report will be available shortly, there is no point to tell the Honourable Member what is in it.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member issue copies to the Members of the Legislative Assembly?

Mr. M. P. Pai: Yes.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Because I believe ..

Mr. President: He has already replied to that.

Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: How many times was the Committee presided over by the Chairman?

Mr. M. P. Pai: I want notice.

SERVANTS COMPARTMENTS ON RAILWAYS

1019. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that railway compartments reserved for servants are occupied by other passengers and that *bona fide* servants are crowded out; and

(b) the exact rules regarding servants coming into the higher classes in which their masters are travelling?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government are aware that, on occasions, overcrowding in third class compartments leads to passengers other than servants of first and second class passengers, attempting to travel in servants' compartments, but it is by no means the case that the servants themselves cannot get accommodation in these compartments. Railway staff have standing instructions that servants are to be accommodated in servants' compartments and upper class passengers can always call upon the guard or checking staff for assistance when the servants cannot secure accommodation because compartments reserved for servants are occupied by passengers not entitled to travel therein.

(b) Principal railways allow servants in sole charge of 1st and 2nd class children passengers below 12 years of age, to travel in the same compartment

as the children, on payment of fare for the next lower class. Only one servant is allowed to travel in the same compartment with each party at the reduced fare, and the servant must not occupy a berth to the exclusion of a passenger who has paid his fare.

A lady travelling alone or with children under 12 years of age at night in a first or second class compartment reserved for ladies may, on principal railways, take into her compartment a female servant holding a third class ticket for that portion of the journey which is performed between the hours of 8 P.M. and 6 A.M. This concession will not apply when two or more ladies are travelling in the same compartment. The servant must leave the compartment when more than one adult passenger occupies it.

In addition servants can always attend on their masters while a train is stopping at a station, but they are required to leave the compartment before the train starts.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact, as I can say from personal experience, that servants compartments are crowded by non-servant passengers, and in view further of the fact that even when appealed to, the railway officials find themselves absolutely helpless in removing those non-servant passengers from the servants' compartments, would it be permissible for the masters to have their servants with them in the higher classes, and if not, what are they to do?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am afraid not.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What exactly is the convention regarding servants coming into their masters' compartments, have not some servants themselves travelled with the Honourable Member in the higher classes while the train is in motion?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, Sir. No one travels with me in my compartment.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member not aware that there is a definite convention by which servants do come up to the masters' compartments before the masters detrain to tie up their luggage, and if so what are the rules?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not while the train is in motion.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I should like to know from the Honourable Member as to what we are to do when the servants' compartments are crowded and servants cannot possibly get into them and they have to travel with their masters. As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware in the 'Deccan Queen' that runs between Bombay and Poona there are communicating doors between the higher classes and the servants' compartments and there are such doors also on the B.B. & C. I. Railway meter gauge trains that run from Delhi to Ahmedabad. Why are the rules different in these trains from what they are in other trains?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am aware of the problem that is worrying my Honourable friend. The provision is that when people other than servants travel in these compartments the passenger is expected to report the matter to the railway staff. But I can quite appreciate that under the conditions of overcrowding which now prevail it is often difficult to have this provision carried out. It is one of those conditions which result from the present overcrowding in trains.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it the policy of the Government to encourage snobbishness which the demand for preferential facilities for servants of upper class passengers represents?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This Government is considered a democratic government and it does not believe in encouraging snobbishness.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What is the principle in having separate servants compartments?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: For the convenience of the passengers who are accompanied by servants.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Does not that encourage snobbishness?

Mr. President: Next question.

RESERVATION OF RAILWAY COMPARTMENT FOR MEN ONLY

1020. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that very often the compartment reserved for ladies are vacant, while ladies travel with their men folk in the general compartments;

(b) whether Government are aware that this causes inconvenience to other men passengers in the general compartments, and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of reserving some compartments only for men?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Sir This happens on occasion.

(b) It is possible that inconvenience is sometimes caused to male passengers, but Government have no doubt that the general body of travellers have no complaint in the matter as they appreciate the arrangements under which members of families can travel together

(c) Government feel that there is no justification for the step suggested and consider that the proposal, apart from involving the possibility of greater waste of accommodation, would not be welcome to the travelling public generally.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could not the Honourable Member suggest to the railways that where there are empty ladies' compartments and men are crowded with ladies in the general compartments, these men may be permitted to travel in the ladies' compartment if they so like and for so long as no other ladies come into that compartment?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is difficult to carry out an arrangement of that kind.

PUBLICATION IN HINDUSTANI OF MAGAZINES ON NUTRITION, GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN, ETC.

1021. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the useful pamphlets of the Department as well as magazines dealing with Nutrition, Grow More Food Campaign, Improvement of Agriculture etc. are published in English only; and

(b) whether Government propose to publish these in Hindustani also?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, but it is open to the Provincial Governments or to private individuals to reproduce all or any of the contents of these pamphlets in the local language.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: In view of the fact that the Central Government has decided to encourage and promote Hindustani as the common language of India, will the Government consider the desirability of publishing these bulletins in Hindustani?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I have already mentioned that we have left it open to the provinces to publish the contents of these publications in the local languages. I might mention that the Government of Bombay are publishing translations of our monthly bulletin, Nutrition, in the languages of the province, namely, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati and Urdu. Some other provinces and states are also publishing these bulletins in the local languages. We do not think that there is any necessity to issue a translation in Hindustani from the Centre.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: In view of the fact that Hindustani is not a provincial language but is an all India language, will Government consider the desirability of publishing these bulletins in Hindustani?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: May I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that in certain provinces the bulletin if published in Hindustani would not be understood by the masses.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will the Honourable Member say why he insists on publishing these bulletins in a foreign language?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The bulletins are published in English. At the same time translations are issued by some provincial governments.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Is the Honourable Member not aware that there are few people knowing English in this country and the majority of the people do not know English?

Mr. President: Order, order.

PRIORITY FOR TRANSPORT OF FIREWOOD UNDER GOVERNMENT ALLOTMENT

1022. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that high priority has been granted by the Railway Authorities for the transport of firewood under Government allotment;

(b) whether Government are aware that in spite of this priority, dealers other than the district nominees who report firewood privately are in a position to secure wagons more easily than the nominees,

(c) whether Government are aware that due to this difficulty in getting wagons by the district nominees there is an acute shortage of firewood in many cities such as Agra; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the District Magistrate in Agra has written a letter to the Commissioner, Food and Supplies, United Provinces, Lucknow drawing his attention to the above facts?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, class 1(f)

(b) Records of the movement of firewood maintained by the E.I. and O.T. Railways do not support the allegation that wagons are allotted to private traders in preference to Government nominees.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government have no information.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable Member enquire and find out whether the information contained in part (b) of the question is correct? He can take it from me that the facts stated there have been stated after due enquiry by me from the district nominees.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sir, we have made some investigations into this question. As I have said in my reply the figures that we have received do not support the point raised by my Honourable friend, as far as the E. I. and O. T. Railways are concerned: I believe there has been a certain amount of difficulty with regard to the transport of firewood on the B. B. & C. I. Railway,

where firewood from the B.B. and C.I. area is carried into the U.P. We have made some investigation in regard to this and although there has been difficulty in the matter of wagon accommodation, the particular allegation made by my Honourable friend has not been substantiated.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT PALGHAT

1023. *Sri A. K. Menon: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have received a memorandum from the Chamber of Commerce Palghat, Malabar, requesting for the establishment of a Telephone Exchange at Palghat?

(b) What is the population of Palghat and in how many towns of lesser population have Government established Telephone Exchanges since 1938?

(c) Do Government propose to establish a Telephone Exchange at Palghat now?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: (a) Yes.

(b) The population of Palghat is about 60,000. The information required in the second part of this question is not readily available and it is not proposed to understand the collection as the results achieved will not be commensurate with the labour and expense involved.

(c) Yes. The question of opening an exchange at Palghat has been fully considered by Government and the work has been placed high on the priority list in the post-war development plans in the Madras Presidency. It is expected that it will be possible to open an exchange there sometime during the next year. A Public Call Office has meanwhile been opened there to give an initial telephone service to the public.

SHIPMENT OF WHEAT FROM TURKEY TO INDIA

1024. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Pahlwal: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

(a) the result of Sir Robert Hutchings' discussions with His Majesty's Government regarding the shipment of wheat from Turkey to India and the purchase of wheat and cereals other than rice to meet the quota for India recommended by the International Emergency Food Council for the first half of 1947, and

(b) the results of other steps taken by Government so far from 1st January 1947 to import sufficient food grains to meet the anticipated shortage?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to the Short Notice Question by Mr Ahmed E. H. Jaffer on the 21st February, 1947.

(b) 182,000 tons of wheat, 20,000 tons of flour, 45,000 tons of maize, 5,000 tons of millets, 83,000 tons of barley, 183,000 tons of milo and 130,000 tons of rice are being shipped to India during the first quarter of 1947. Continuous representations have been and are being made to countries which have surplus wheat and in respect of other grains we have got buyers purchasing grains for us where such grains can be obtained in the open market. We are carrying on certain negotiations the details of which it would be contrary to public interest to divulge at this stage. As regards rice, the bulk of our allotment is from South East Asia and is supplied to us according to our share and in accordance with the availabilities. We are making arrangements to obtain paddy from Indonesia this year also.

INDIANISATION OF THE RAILWAY BOARD

†1025. *Captain Syed Abid Hussain: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the names of the present Members of the Railway Board?

(b) How many Europeans, Muslims, Hindus, and others have been Members during the last 10 years?

(c) Do Government propose to Indianise the Railway Board in the near future?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b) A statement giving the information is placed on the table of the House.

(c) It is Government's policy to Indianise the Railway Board and they will implement this policy to the extent that suitable Indians with the necessary experience are available

Statement showing the names of the present Members of the Railway Board including the Chief Commissioner and the Financial Commissioner of Railways.

Chief Commissioner of Railways	Col R B Emerson, C I E., O.B.E.
Financial Commissioner of Railways	Mr A C Turner, C S I, C I E., M B.E., I C S
Member, Engineering	Dr. H J Nichols
Member, Staff	Mr Z H Khan.
Member, Transportation	Mr G. A Rowletson

Europeans	14
Hindus	4
Muslims	3
Others	1

STOPPAGE OF SERVING OF BEEF ON RESTAURANT CARS ON RAILWAYS

†1026. ***Captain Syed Abid Hussain:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) whether Government are aware that formerly beef used to be served in the Restaurant Cars on the Indian Railways, and

(b) whether Government are aware that only recently it had been stopped, if so, why?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Sir Beef was served in the Restaurant Cars on Government Railways except in Indian Dining Cars

(b) Government are aware that compliance with austerity regulations under which no alternative main dish can be provided, makes it difficult to include beef in menus. The question of the service of beef, pork etc. in dining cars and railway refreshment rooms has recently been examined by the Central Advisory Council for Railways, and their advice in this matter is under the consideration of Government.

HOSPITALS IN THE RAILWAY WORKSHOP CENTRES

1027. ***Sri V. Gangaraju:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of hospitals in the Railway Workshop Centres of the Bengal Nagpur and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway zones,

(b) the number of doctors working in those hospitals,

(c) the number of lady doctors employed and the places where they are working;

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

(d) the number of midwives employed and the places where they are working; and

(e) whether these hospitals are provided with maternity beds and if so in what places?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) There are two hospitals in the Khargpur Railway Settlement on the B. N. Railway and one hospital each at Perambur and Hubli on the M. & S. M. Railway.

(b) Nine doctors are employed in the hospitals at Khargpur, fourteen in the hospital at Perambur and nine in the hospital at Hubli.

(c) No lady doctors are employed in the hospitals at Khargpur. A lady doctor is in charge of each of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres at Perambur and Hubli.

(d) There are seven midwives, four at Khargpur, two at Perambur and one at Hubli.

(e) The hospitals at Khargpur are provided with maternity beds.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Could the Honourable Member state when he expects to provide lady doctors to these hospitals?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The question of the reorganisation of railway hospitals is now under examination on the basis of a report which a railway doctor placed on special duty for the purpose has made.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of constructing a similar hospital in Bezawada?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will have that examined.

SPENDING OF FOOD SUBSIDY OF RUPEES FIFTEEN CRORES

1028. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

(a) how the subsidy of Rs. 15 crores for food is expected to be spent and on what cereals and in what proportion;

(b) the steps that are being taken to see that this subsidy benefits mostly the poorer sections of our people; and

(c) what is being done to prevent this subsidy from lowering the internal level of food prices to an unremunerative degree?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) The amount of subsidy from 1st April 1946 to 31st March 1947 is estimated at 20.59 crores. The cereal-wise distribution of the amount is as follows:

Wheat and Wheat Products, Rs. 2.63 crores

Rice, Rs. 4.77 crores

Maize, Millets, Barley, etc., Rs. 13.19 crores

(b) and (c) The benefit of the subsidy is being passed on to all consumers. It was intended to stabilise internal prices at the level reached in April 1946 and not to depress them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How much do Government propose to spend during the coming year and in what proportion between the various cereals?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The Honourable the Finance Member, I believe, had indicated that his estimate of the requirements on this will be about Rs. 17½ crores. I cannot give an indication at present about the distribution between the various cereals as we do not know what we shall be getting.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that even though the Foodgrains Committee over which Sir Theodore Gregory had presided had suggested that the food

consumption of the poorer people should be subsidised by Government, Government have been supplying these subsidised foodstuffs to all classes whether they deserve it or not?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I have already explained that the object of the subsidy is to maintain the internal prices at the existing level. The subsidy is given proportionately to the imports into all Provinces so that the Provincial Governments can sell imported grain at the existing prices.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that none of these Committees, including the Committee presided over by Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, has suggested such a practice as the Government has been following, namely to subsidise the food consumption of all classes whether they deserve it or not?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The Sir V. T. Krishnamachari Committee was concerned with long term proposals, and these are now under the consideration of the Government. But we were advised that the internal prices should be maintained and the imported grains subsidised.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he can tell this House what particular consignments from what particular countries have necessitated this very large expenditure in order to equalise the prices?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: If this House so desires I will lay a statement on the table of the House. It will be a long one to read out.

Mr. President: He has not got the statement ready, probably.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: Could the Honourable Member not indicate even, say, the name of the country which is charging so much from us that it is necessary to spend this very large sum to approximate it to the cost of indigenous production?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The costs of all the imported grains generally are above those of grains produced locally. I have already mentioned that Burma rice has had to be subsidised and similar is the case in respect of rice imported from Siam and in respect of wheat and millets. I think generally speaking that all the imports have had to be subsidised.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has there been any committee or non-official expert who has made the suggestion that so much of money should be spent in order to subsidise foodstuffs with the purpose of so-called stabilisation of prices and if so which is that committee or who is that expert?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: There has been no committee appointed as such. The decision has been taken by Government after consultations between the different Departments.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the fact that the sum of Rs. 20 crores is a very big sum for distribution among the Provinces in order to stabilise price levels, I would like to ask whether Government of India attempted to find out whether whose prices have been stabilised at all, and in what manner the Provinces have spent the Rs. 20 crores?

Mr. President: He talked about equalisation of prices. I think

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I mentioned stabilisation of prices.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is my Honourable friend satisfied that the prices paid for food purchases in countries not covered by the Emergency Food Council were the correct prices to pay and the system of making purchases was satisfactory?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Yes, Sir. Government is satisfied that these purchases have been made at the best rates possible.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is my Honourable friend aware that purchases of maize were made in the Argentine at 92 shillings a quarter and that the price later on that could have been obtained was 72 shillings a quarter?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The price prevailing at the time the purchases were made was 92 shillings a quarter.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is my Honourable friend aware that the only two purchasers in the market in the Argentine were the High Commissioner for India in London and the Indian Trade Commissioner in Buenos Aires and each was competing against the other without knowing that they were buying against each other?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I want notice of this question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is my honourable friend aware that as representing the Government of India I instructed the Trade Commissioner in the Argentine from London to stop his purchases because he was purchasing at very high rates?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I want notice.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is my Honourable friend aware that as a result of that *au clair cable* being sent to the Trade Commissioner in the Argentine the price of maize fell from 92 shillings to 72 shillings a quarter?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I want notice.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: In some cases where food was bought from countries there was a reciprocal arrangement to sell to them some products of India. In those cases may I know whether those products were sold on the same basis on which food was sold to us?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Sir, this is a question covering several transactions. I will give the information if notice is given to me.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend again—I was interrupted by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir—whether it is a fact that some purchases made by the Trade Commissioner in Buenos Aires happened to be at a rate a little higher than the highest rate of the day during the time those purchases were made?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I want notice.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May we take it that the Government have undone all the good work that Diwan Chaman Lall had done in the Argentine and actually paid higher prices than those settled by Diwan Chaman Lall?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: There have been no purchases since Diwan Chaman Lall's visit. The purchases in question were made before Diwan Chaman Lall went there.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Diwan Chaman Lall had suggested that the purchases should be stopped by the Trade Commissioner. Am I to understand that the attention of the Honourable Member's Department was not drawn to the representation referred to by Diwan Chaman Lall?

Mr. President: I believe the representations were made at the end of the purchases.

Diwan Chaman Lall: The purchases were stopped.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: May I know from the Honourable Member why the amount of subsidy was Rs. 13 crores on corn while it was Rs. 4½ crores for rice and Rs. 2½ crores for wheat?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: It depends upon the quantities imported.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: May we expect the statement that the Honourable Member mentioned just now to be laid on the table?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether Government have been pursuing a similar policy in regard to cloth, namely of importing cloth from abroad and subsidising in order to stabilise the prices of cloth in this country? If not, why not?

Mr. President: I am afraid it will be outside the scope of this question.

SUBSIDISING OF EXPORTS OF POTATOES AND FOODSTUFFS

1029. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of the United States of America are subsidizing exports of certain foodstuffs such as potato, and that potatoes purchased at Rs. 7 per 100 lbs. is being offered for sale at annas 2 per seer; and

(b) whether Government have taken steps to obtain adequate supplies of such subsidized food and if they have not so far done so, whether they propose to do so now?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The reasons for not importing potatoes from the U. S. A. are stated in my reply to the short notice question put by Mr. Haji Abdul Sattar on the 12th February. As regards availability of other foodstuffs of similar nature enquiries are being made.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether any purchases have been made of potato in the United States of America and if so in what quantities?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: May I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given on the 12th February to the short notice question put by Haji Abdul Sattar?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is exactly my trouble. Sir. The Honourable Member is referring me to some other answer.

Mr. President: Not to some other answer but to identical information given by the Honourable Member has not read it or was not present in the House, he cannot press it.

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I pointed out at that time that the difficulty was one of transport, that there would be undue wastage except in refrigerated ships and that the cost would be prohibitive. There is also a shortage of refrigerated ships.

FORMATION OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE F. A. O.

1030. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the F. A. O. has asked the Government of India to form the National Committee of the F. A. O. to study the work, resolutions and recommendations of the F. A. O. and also to act as a channel of communication between Government and the F. A. O. and that several countries like Canada, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and the United States of America have already formed such committees several months ago.

(b) why Government have not yet formed the Indian Committee; and

(c) when it will be formed?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) A request has been received from the F. A. O. for the formation of a Liaison Committee.

(b) It was decided to await the report of the Committee on the re-organisation of the Departments of Agriculture and Food.

(c) Report of the Reorganisation Committee has just been received and is under examination. A decision regarding the appointment of the Liaison Committee will be taken as soon as the examination of Report of the Reorganisation Committee is finished.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When was this request first of all received by Government from the F. A. O. that such a committee should be established in India?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I do not remember the exact date but it must be about four or five months ago.

RECONNECTION OF RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN MORAPPUR AND HOSUR ON S. I. RAILWAY

1031. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) when and why the branch Railway Line between Morappur and Hosur on the South Indian Railway was dismantled;

(b) whether it was a paying line and what dividend it was yielding;

(c) whether Government are aware that this line has been serving the transport and commercial needs of an important area, which is also within the famine zone of Salem District; and

(d) when this line will be reconstructed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The Morappur-Hosur Branch line of the S. I. Railway was dismantled in October 1941 as it was commercially unremunerative.

(b) This Branch line worked at a loss during its entire existence and it was estimated that its closure would result in an annual saving of Rs. 92,000.

(c) Government are aware that the line was originally built as a famine feeder line but that it had outlived its usefulness with the growth of competitive road transport services in the area.

(d) There is no proposal at present to restore this Branch line as the Provincial Government have not so far recommended its restoration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Government of India was losing only Rs. 92,000 in pre-war days on this line and further in view of the fact that it can and it will serve as a famine protection line will Government at least consider the advisability of starting it again?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: What happened in this case was that about two years ago the Railway Board consulted the then Provincial Government of Madras on the question who were not prepared to recommend the restoration of this line. Since the Ministry came into existence, a further reference has been made but no reply has so far been received but the matter will be taken up for consideration when that reply is received.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: May I know whether when this line was constructed in 1870 a railway cess was levied?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: In calculating the losses, was not a big item of expenditure on account of works not maintained there also calculated in arriving at a return?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The results of the inquiries made before the war are not particularly relevant to the problem at present, because the great development of road traffic in that area has put an entirely new phase on that problem.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: With regard to the importance of the question of connecting Mysore with this part of Salem and Coimbatore was there not a proposal to extend the Mysore-Channarayana Railway to join the S. I. Railway as the convenient link to the North and South to the M. and S. M. Railway?

Now that all the railways have come under Government control, why should not this dismantled railway be restored to have that link to serve the public because the public contributed to its construction?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: These are considerations, I take it, that the Provincial Government would take into account when they send their reply.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Will the Honourable Member consider the importance of trade and also the facilities of people who do large business between Mysore and the Southern districts?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I must repeat that the Provincial Government is in a much better position to examine these local problems.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Does the Government propose to close all the lines which are working at a loss, like the Bengal Assam and the Bengal Nagpur Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, they don't.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: What is the reason?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It depends on considerations which vary from case to case.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: These lines are also working at a loss?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The question of the restoration of dismantled lines stands on an entirely different footing from the existing lines.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Has the present Madras Government been asked?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: A reference has been made to the present Madras Government. No reply has been received yet.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT AFTER RELEASE FROM I. N. A.

1032. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state

(a) how many of the employees of his Department who were on deputation to the Defence Services during the war had to join the I. N. A.;

(b) how many of them have been re-absorbed by the Department after their release from the I. N. A. and the incidental imprisonment,

(c) whether it is a fact that assurances were given that an earnest effort would be made to re-absorb them in their respective posts or other positions;

(d) if so, why so many of them are still being kept out; and

(e) whether Government propose to take steps now to provide them with employment?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: (a) 118 joined the I. N. A.

(b) None has so far been reinstated.

(c) No such assurance was given by the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

(d) and (e) The policy of Government in regard to the re-employment of those civil Government servants who collaborated with the enemy during the war and were subsequently recovered, has already been made clear in my answer to Starred Question No. 805 by Mr. S. S. Sanyal on the 10th March 1947.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will any effort be made to absorb as many of these men as possible at an early date?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: In my reply to Mr. Sanyal's question which was not reached that day and which will be incorporated in the proceedings, I explained the position. With your permission, Sir, I will read out the relevant portion:

Mr. Sanyal asked in parts (d) and (e) of his question

whether Government are aware that after these men reported themselves as directed, they have been kept on leave on half pay when leave on half pay is due, or on a subsistence allowance when no such leave is due and that they are neither being asked to join, nor are they receiving their dues or any amenities, and

if so what Government propose to do in the case of these men and what is their policy in the matter?

My answer was

"(d) The employees in question have been kept on leave due or when no leave was due to them, under suspension pending inquiry and the issue of final orders is a result of the review of the whole position.

(e) The policy of Government in regard to the employees of the Civil Department who collaborated with the enemy during the war and were subsequently recovered was recently reviewed by the new Government and it has been decided that there shall be no bar on the re-employment of such persons except such of them as were guilty of acts of brutality and this applies to the persons about whom the Honourable Member is inquiring.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Has any step been taken to acquaint these employees of the policy that has been adopted recently, because we are receiving numerous letters?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: This policy was decided very recently and the cases are under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government communicate this new policy of theirs to these employees so that they may know to whom to apply for reinstatement?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: The Government will re-examine each case and the final orders will issue shortly.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: In view of the fact that the I. N. A. men are getting letters from the places where they apply to that they cannot be employed because of their joining the I. N. A. will Government give a direction saying that there is no bar on them any more, because they once joined the I. N. A.

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: The policy that I have now announced will, I hope, receive due publicity.

RETURN OF REQUISITIONED LAND TO THE CALCUTTA PINJRAPOLE SOCIETY —

1033. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Pinjrapole Society of Calcutta to the effect that some 3,150 acres of their land requisitioned by the War Department of the Government of India through the Government of Bengal, though released by the American troops, is not being returned to the Society by the Provincial Government, if so, what action has been taken thereon, and

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the said Pinjrapole Society was founded some sixty years back by some religious and philanthropist person for rearing and breeding cattle and for dairy farming purposes and the Society have spent lacs of rupees on this land for improving its value during the last 20 years?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Yes. A representation has been received. It was suggested to the Bengal Government that the land may be returned to the Society which has been doing useful work but that Government have stated that they have under consideration a scheme for the development of the area as the site for a new town at a cost of several crores of rupees. They have again been requested to avoid using the land except for increasing milk production through the Society.

(b) Government are aware that the Society is of long standing but have no information as to the amount spent by it on improving the land.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSPRINT BY THE CONVENOR OF MADRAS GROUP OF INDIAN AND EASTERN NEWSPAPER SOCIETY.

1034. *Sardar Sampuran Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if the Managing Editor of '*The Indian Express*', addressed a letter to the Joint Secretary, Industries and Civil Supplies Department, complaining against the distribution by the Convenor of the Madras Group of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society of one thousand tons of newsprint allotted for the Madras newspapers?

(b) Was the allotment made among the Madras newspapers by the Convenor with the approval of the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies?

(c) Is it a fact that it was decided both in the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society and in the Newsprint Advisory Committee, that the tonnage secured by their Delegation in person, should be imported by groups of newspapers in each region and that it should be distributed only to the newspapers in need of newsprint under special permits from the Government of India? Is it also a fact that this arrangement was agreed to by the Government of India as a special case?

(d) If so, what were the considerations that led the Government of India to agree to the distribution by one person, so far as the Madras Group was concerned?

Mr. M. P. Pai: (a) Yes

(b) Mr. C. P. Srinivasan, in the capacity of Regional Convenor of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society proposed to the Department of Industries and Supplies that as it was difficult to secure godown accommodation for the entire stock of 1,000 tons of newsprint which he was importing in Madras on behalf of the Society and to lock up funds for any length of time, the newsprint should be distributed amongst certain newspapers. The allocation proposed by Mr. Srinivasan, which included also an allocation to Mr. Ramnath Goenka, was accepted by Government subject to the condition that this paper would be available generally for the needs of all newspapers in the Madras area requiring such help.

(c) In accordance with the advice given by the Newsprint Advisory Committee, the import, storage and distribution of this newsprint the supply of which had been secured by a delegation financed and sent abroad by the Indian and Eastern Newsprint Society, was left by Government at the absolute discretion of the Society subject to the condition applicable to all newsprint stocks that it would be available to Government for distribution to needy newspapers.

(d) Since this newsprint was the property of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society Government could hardly interfere in the distribution proposed by Mr. Srinivasan. The position has been explained to Mr. Goenka who was a member of the Society's delegation and secured the supply for the Society.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE *Indian Express* IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSPRINT IN MADRAS

1035. *Sardar Sampuran Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether Government are aware that the only Group which was discriminated against by the Convenor of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society in the distribution of newsprint was the '*Indian Express*' Group in Madras and that at their cost distribution was made to other newspapers?

(b) What steps have the Government of India taken to ensure the proper distribution of the balance of 120 tons which is stated to be reserved for small newspapers? At what price is this balance to be distributed?

(c) Are Government aware that instead of distribution being made by the group of newspapers as agreed upon in the Newsprint Advisory Committee and the Indian and Eastern Newspapers Society, it is also being made by Messrs. General Papers Limited?

(d) What was the reason for not distributing the newsprint in proportion to the respective quotas of each newspaper?

Mr. M. P. Pai: (a) In view of the position explained in answer to the preceding question, Government do not accept this view.

(b) and (c). In accordance with Mr. Srinivasan's proposals which were accepted by Government the quantity of 120 tons out of 1,000 tons was allocated to Messrs. General Papers Limited for sale to small newspapers. The question of price at which the newsprint would be sold by this firm is to be decided by the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society. In any case it would be within the ceilings fixed by Government. It has since been decided by Government to relax the Newsprint Control with effect from the 1st April 1947 after which date the question of distribution or any re-allocation would be in the hands of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society.

(d) Reply to part (d) of the preceding question covers the reply to this part of the question.

ABSENCE OF LIGHTS IN GUN-CARRIAGE FACTORY WORKMEN'S QUARTERS AT JUBBULPORE

1036. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether it is a fact that Gun-Carriage Factory Workmen's quarters at Jubbulpore, have no provision of lights or latrines causing great inconvenience to the occupants especially women, if so, whether Government propose to reconstruct better type of quarters sufficient in number to accommodate the staff and workmen?

Mr. M. P. Pai: Individual quarters are not provided with electric lights or with separate closets. The workmen's lines have road lighting with the exception of the temporary war quarters area. Common latrines are provided, with separate latrines for women. There is no scheme at present for the general reconstruction of the quarters but I shall have the matter examined.

TRADE UNION WORK BY EMPLOYEES OF ORDNANCE DEPOTS

1037. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether Government are aware of the general feeling of discontent amongst the employees of the Ordnance Depots for being harassed for taking active part in Trade Union work, if so, whether Government propose to issue necessary instructions to the Heads of the department?

Mr. M. P. Pai: This question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Defence Secretary but I can say that the employees are not likely these days to be harassed in the manner suggested.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN SHIP-BUILDING INDUSTRY IN BENGAL

1038. *Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government of India have received any representation from the Government of Bengal asking their help, encouragement and assistance in the development of Indian Ship-building Industry in Bengal principally under Indian capital control and management; and

(b) if so, what is the policy of Government in this respect?

Mr. M. P. Pai: (a) No, Sir. My department is not aware of any such representation.

(b) Government are awaiting the report of the Panel on the Shipbuilding Industry.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER.

BASIC YEAR FOR DETERMINATION OF QUOTA FOR EXPORT OF CHILLIES TO CEYLON

92. Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department kindly state as to why the basic year for determination of quota for exporting chillies to Ceylon has been fixed as 1911-42?

(b) Is it a fact that 1941-42 has not been taken as the basic year in the case of other commodities?

(c) Is it a fact that by fixing 1911-42 as the basic year many prominent shippers have been left out?

(d) Has this arrangement entailed heavy losses to many leading Muslim firms?

(e) Do Government propose to consider a change of policy in view of the above facts?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) 1911-12 was fixed as the basic year in order to secure the distribution of these quotas to well established firms. The exports during 1941-42 were at the lowest ebb and the dealers left in the field at that time were those of long standing.

(b) No. No. It has been adopted as the basic year for export of several other commodities.

(c) Government have no information. Some shippers are likely to be left out whatever the basic year is adopted.

(d) Government have no knowledge of the alleged losses.

(e) The general policy regarding distribution of export quotas is under review.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (CONTROLS) BILL—*contd.*

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion:

That the Bill to continue for a limited period powers to prohibit or control imports and exports as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Mr. P. B. Gole (Berar Non-Muhammadan) Mr. President, yesterday I was making certain observations regarding the general effect this Bill is likely

to have upon exports and imports and also to a general demoralisation of the Bill. I also find from the minutes of dissent that several Members of the Select Committee also view with great apprehension the effect of the provisions of clause 3. The objection is with regard to the issue of permits which will be issued under sub-clause (1). Thus as I have already observed, is likely to give rise to widespread corruption and favouritism. Therefore, unless the power to issue permits is taken away, this Bill is likely to work a great hardship. It may be asked, if the Government wants to restrict or prohibit the export or import of any commodity, how else it is to be done? So far as the prohibition is concerned, some order prohibiting the export or import of any commodity will suffice. With regard to the restriction regarding the quantity of export or import there may arise certain difficulties and a competition for getting the necessary permit will come into being with the result that if the permit is granted, the permission will be forthcoming. I would, however, suggest for the consideration of the Honourable Member that instead of issuing these permits applications should be called and with these applications which are for import some 30 per cent or 40 per cent of the price should be deposited. The

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result will be that only those persons who are genuine traders and who are not out for profiteering but who do the usual business will apply and they will deposit such money along with their applications. Now, it may perhaps be asked as to what will happen if more applications are received for the quantity which is sought to be imported. What is to be done in that case? I would suggest that those applicants who have deposited 30 or 40 per cent of the price along with their applications should be taken together and the quota should be divided *pro-rata* among those applicants. In the this way, difficulty of issuing permits will be easily solved. My submission is that no permits should be granted under this clause.

With regard to sub-clause (2) of clause 3, my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson has already made certain observations and I think they are very pertinent and ought to be taken into consideration. But what I object to is with regard to sub-clause (3) of clause 3. This sub-clause (3) has been taken *verbatim* from the Defence of India Rule 84, sub-rule (5). Now I find that this may have been necessary when the war was on, but this sub-clause gives very wide powers to the Government whereby it is quite likely that any person may be put to severe loss. The question arises whether such sweeping powers as are provided in sub-clause (3) of clause 3 should be given to the Government. Sub-clause (3) reads as follows:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the aforesaid Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the official Gazette, prohibit, restrict or impose conditions on the clearance, whether for home consumption or for shipment abroad, of any goods or class of goods imported into British India."

Now, Sir, had this clause been so worded that the goods the clearance of which would be prohibited or restricted are the goods the import of which has been prohibited or restricted under sub-clause (1) of clause 3, then it would have been all right. But the wording of sub-clause (3) is of any goods. Take for instance the case of the goods that have arrived in India and there was no restriction when the goods were imported, they are lying on the wharf and are awaiting clearance. At that time if an officer takes into his head to pass an order prohibiting the clearance of these goods or the transshipment of these goods for sending abroad, it would create havoc and loss. In case of a man who knowingly brings the restricted goods and who knows that the Government would come down upon him at any time, I can understand this sub-clause as applying restricted to goods which are prohibited or restricted under sub-clause (1) but the wording is so wide for for shipment abroad of any goods or class of goods. So, it is not the goods that are restricted or prohibited but any goods. If therefore, in the case of goods which have already arrived in the harbour and which are awaiting clearance, an order is passed by the Central Government prohibiting those goods, then I submit, it will create an unnecessary hardship to the importers. In this connection, I will draw the attention of the House to section 89 of the Sea Customs Act, which runs as follows:

"When the owner of any goods entered for home-consumption, and (if such goods be liable to duty) assessed under section 87, has paid the import duty (if any) assessed on such goods and any charges payable under this Act in respect of the same the Customs officer may make an order clearing the same, and such order shall be sufficient authority for the removal of such goods by the owner."

Now, Sir, the position seems to be this that this section 89 is still operative so that as soon as goods arrive in the harbour, the customs duty will have to be levied on those goods and the importer will have to pay that duty. But after all it is quite possible for any government officer to restrict or prohibit clearance of these goods. That will cause still greater hardship. The customs duty is recovered under section 89 of the Sea Customs Act and after that the goods are

prohibited. What does this mean? I do not know why the wording of this sub-clause (3) is kept so wide that any goods whether prohibited or restricted or not, those goods are not to be cleared and why should such wide powers be claimed. I know under Rule 84 of the Defence of India Rules such a provision existed, but we are not now in war time, as everything is fair in love or war. That was all right then. We are not now at war with anybody. Is it necessary that such sweeping powers should be vested in Government at this time. What is the basis? I do not know for what purpose. In fact I have not been able to understand even in the Select Committee why this sub-clause (3) is retained or practically copied from Rule 84 of the Defence of India Rules unless there is some very weighty reason for such a clause. Otherwise this clause should not be placed on the statute book at all. Therefore I submit that unless a very satisfactory explanation is forthcoming as to why this clause should be retained, I am afraid I cannot vote for this provision.

Now, I draw the attention of the House to clause 5 of the Bill. This clause says,

"If any person contravenes any order made or deemed to have been made under this Act."

I do not understand why these words 'deemed to have been made' have been put in there at all. Clause 4 says, "all orders made under rule 84 of the Defence of India Rules or that rule as continued in force by the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, 1946.....deemed to have been made under this Act". This is in clause 4. Therefore all orders that may have been passed under the Defence of India rules or ordinance are deemed to be orders under this Act. Having said so in clause 4, what is the necessity of adding these words 'deemed to have been made under this Act' in clause 5 also. I do not understand the propriety of these words at all. Of course it may be said that this is practically a copy of what is said in the previous clause. But that is no answer. Clause 4 says clearly that all order passed under Rule 84 of the Ordinance shall be deemed to have been passed under this Act. That is sufficient. It is not necessary further to say 'that if any person contravenes any order made or deemed to have been made under this Act'. These words are not at all necessary. I would show the House the mischief that may be caused by this provision. If you keep these words 'deemed to have been made under this Act' the mischief will be this. There is an article which is not prohibited according to the list published by the Government of India. In these lists the article which is sought to be prohibited by an order is not mentioned there. But the officer says that under clause 3 of this Bill I prohibit or I restrict the import of this article. Really speaking this article is not mentioned in the list published by the Government of India. But he purports to act under clause 3 and therefore such an order will be "deemed to have been made under this Act". Therefore although he acts illegally still, it should be deemed to have been made under this Act. This will cause greater mischief. The man will not be liable for any punishment, he will not be called upon to explain his conduct, and all acts whether legally or illegally done, if they are deemed to have been made under this Act, the poor fellow who imports the goods knowing that there is nothing in the list of the Government of India against importing the specific goods that man will be arraigned and prosecuted and sentenced for no fault of his. My submission is that these words are not only redundant but they are unnecessary. On the contrary they are sometimes likely to cause mischief. Therefore I would submit for the consideration of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill that these words should be omitted from clause 5.

I now come to clause 7. Somehow or other I find that even Rule 84 of the Defence of India Rules there is no provision for a saving clause. In many Acts there are saving clauses saving all acts done under the previous enactment from being dragged into a court of law. Any officer who acts *bona fide*

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under any enactment is protected from the mischief of being dragged into a court of law. Here, I do not understand why this clause 7 is called 'saving'. It says "No order made or deemed to have been made under this Act shall be called in question in any court and no suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall be against any person for anything in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or any order made or deemed to have been made thereunder."

My humble submission is that really speaking this is giving too wide powers. Why do they want to be saved? Are they going to act illegally? If they do so, why should they not be arraigned before a court of law? Why should they not be liable for damages and for prosecution? I do not at all understand this saving clause giving protection for all acts to be done under the Export and Import control. Therefore I submit that under this Bill you are giving too wide powers. It was all right that Government were given such powers during the time of war. Even under Rule 84 there was no such saving clause. But here in peace time in this Bill there is such a saving clause giving protection for all acts and omission commission on the part of officials of Government who want to act illegally. I have already submitted that we have had enough demoralisation in this country on account of controls. There was a long debate last time about these controls and from every nook and corner great hue and cry was raised against these controls. Here we enact one after another laws which are to be placed on the statute book to perpetuate those controls. I think, Sir, we have come to a stage when the moral tone of our society should be improved. Whenever we enact any law, our endeavour should be towards the improvement of the tone of society. Here on the contrary attempts are being made to perpetuate in one form or another all sorts of controls and in such a manner that will cause perhaps the greatest and untold hardships to some importers or exporters. I think in peace time these things should be carefully avoided. Unless the Bill is improved in the directions suggested by me and those difficulties which I just now suggested are removed I do not think the Bill should be passed.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association. Indian Commerce). Sir, controls and quotas under the Defence of India Rules have been a disgusting and disgraceful chapter in the commercial history of this country. I can well realise why the Honourable the Commerce Member comes before this House to renew the Defence of India Rules and Ordinances. The reasons behind this are shortage of goods all round in certain categories. The other reason is protection to the industries of this country. The object is certainly a good and laudable one and also necessary. Some powers ought to be given to the Government under the Bill, but, Sir, the powers asked for have been misused in the past and I therefore desire that we should not give any such powers to the Government which would be liable to be misused and abused and which would be harmful to the real interests of trade and industry. In the past these controls and quotas have created a lot of corruption, favouritism, nepotism; and other evils have sprung up out of them. And with that in mind I have suggested some safeguards and amendments; I will come to that later on. But I would like the House to note what kind of corruption has grown under this quota and control system. I will give one important example which has led to the loss of some millions and many honest exporters have been robbed of their legitimate dues and gains. I refer to the members of the Maskati Cloth Market Association of Ahmedabad whose merchants were real exporters and have lost millions because of the wrong action of the department in depriving them of their just dues. As early as April 1946 I took up the matter along with them as their representative with the Commerce Department. I saw the then Secretary Sir N. R. Pillay along with the Secretary of the Maskati Market Association and other members, and a discussion took place as to why they were not given their due quotas for export. He referred

us to the Joint Secretary as he was then leaving for the Continent. The Commerce Secretary sent a directive to the Export Trade Controller at Bombay to look into the matter and do justice to them. A directive was issued and these people were asked to represent their case. The matter was delayed and after a few months a printed circular went to them that their representations had been rejected and they could not get these quotas. The matter was again taken up on the 17th and 18th October 1946 when the Secretary of the Maskati Market Association and some Honourable Members of this House and myself discussed the matter threadbare with the Secretary of the Department. A representation dated 2nd July 1946, was made to the Export Trade Controller and that was discussed with the Secretary. I will read a portion of that representation, I would say that there were three categories of cases covered in that representation,—A, B and C, and after discussion with the Secretary and the Deputy Chief Controller they gave a decision in favour of these merchants in categories A and B, while in category C many documents had to be seen and more discussions had to take place. And so a questionnaire was issued and certain questions were asked, and both parties—those who had lost their quota and those who had wrongly got their quotas—had to be confronted with each other with documents and other things. That procedure was evolved. I will read these categories so as to explain to the House how much corruption this has engendered; and thus has cost millions of Rupees to these real exporters.

(a) The Ahmedabad seller has received order from the Rangoon buyer and the Rangoon buyer has also remitted the moneys directly to the sellers. The Ahmedabad seller is A and the Rangoon buyer is B. C in Bombay has on some cases acted merely for the purpose of attending to the shipments of those goods which B (Rangoon merchant) has purchased from A (the Ahmedabad merchant) and C therefore has had no interest in this trade. C therefore is not an exporter.

That is what was decided by the Secretary. In category B these cases come in

(b) In some cases it happened that C has not personally rendered his services for export, but has engaged another man for such services, but neither C nor his deputy or sub-contractor for transport or shipment is a real exporter.

(c) In some cases the Ahmedabad merchants who sold the goods to Burma merchants received instructions direct from the Burma buyers to send the goods to Bombay where the Burma merchants asked the Ahmedabad supplier to draw for the amount of the goods on the due date on a party in Bombay on behalf of the Burma buyers by way of *Hundi*. The Bombay man honoured the *Hundi* arranged for shipment of the goods from Bombay to Burma, but the Bombay man has no interest in the export trade but acted merely as and for the purpose of transshipment of goods and the real exporter remains the Ahmedabad seller. In this case also, as in the previous cases, declarations in form A will show that the supplier is the Ahmedabad merchant that is, he is the exporter."

Then all of a sudden on the 18th February a letter goes to the merchants and although in categories A and B which are 70 per cent. of the cases a decision was given in their favour, it was reversed by the said letter, and this is what that letter from the Commerce Department says

"With reference to your letter, dated the 16th October 1946 addressed to the Commerce Department on the above subject I have the honour to say that the Ahmedabad merchants can be considered as real exporters only in those cases where they had effected shipments during the basic period on their own account and the Bombay party was acting *only as a licensed mukaddam or a clearing agent*. In all other cases it is considered that the Ahmedabad party had no interests in the goods after they had been railed to Bombay and that they also did not undertake the risks usually associated with the export. It has therefore been decided that in such cases, the Bombay party, if he is already in receipt of quotas on the basis of such exports should continue to enjoy the quota rights."

Ahmedabad has no port and so they have to come to a port; they have got to appoint shipping agents and clearing agents. I will refer here to the world

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practice of how shipments from the interior of countries are being done. In England there is a big firm of shippers and clearing agents who also do the banking side of it—Messrs J. S. Holt and Mosley Ltd. I have done millions of rupees worth of business with them. I am myself a clearing and shipping agent and I know the trade very well and I can tell you that they do banking business and pay on behalf of merchants; they ship on behalf of merchants and still they are only shipping and clearing agents and bankers in England; while here in this country a banker or shipping and clearing agent is considered a quota holder by the Department and the real exporters' interests are thrown to the winds. Mind, these are not individual merchants. It is an Association representing two thousand merchants and Association which is dealing in wholesale cloth business. The distribution side of it has been commended by this Government and Industries Department and has been so well done that such a systematic thing has not been done in any other part of the country. No merchant in that Association ever goes to the court against another and for the last 15 years not one case has gone to the court; they have their own arbitration rules and in 15 days all complaints are settled. Even their disputes with millowners are settled by arbitration and it is a unique Association, but Sir, their representations have been flouted. It may be said that Government lay down a certain procedure outside which no officer can go. Such a directive was really printed originally some 18 months ago or two years ago; and still although in the printed directive certain rules were laid down these rules were flouted. As I said, a decision was already given in their favour but that decision was reversed. This is the corruption and nepotism that is going on under these quotas and controls and that is why I do not like officers or even Government to have such wide powers as are sought to be given here. Powers have been misused in the past and they will surely be misused in the future; that is why I do not like them. That is why various suggestions have been made by me and other Honourable Members and some way should be found whereby such powers are not granted any more to these officials or to Government. In such cases I have suggested a judicial tribunal for appeal, and this tribunal will go into the question of rightful owners of these quotas. But I would suggest a further thing which would remove the possibility of corruption in the working of this Act. It is this. India is paying very heavy prices for the food that it imports. We have already subsidized our food imports to the tune of 20 crores last year, there would be another 15 or 20 crores this year. Those countries are charging us very high prices much higher than world prices, while we are exporting our articles, such as cloth, cotton and various other things not at world prices but at our controlled prices, and so the benefit of that goes to the very countries which are charging us high prices for our foodstuffs. As I suggested on a previous occasion if the Government takes over the export of these important commodities and sells them at world prices, they would certainly make 10 to 20 crores of rupees in the bargain and from that sum we can subsidize our food imports. What happens about cloth trade is this. The foreign countries buy from this country at controlled price and sell to consumers in their countries at three times the price. So the consumers in those countries do not get the goods at controlled price, but they are being fleeced by the intermediaries or their Governments. There is nothing wrong in charging world prices. I understand Burma is charging us quite a different price for rice than what is prevailing in that country; they have two price levels. I wish this important business is done by Government so that there will be no more quota holders. But if Government somehow or other comes to the conclusion that quota holders should be kept, they can be given a reasonable margin of profit, but I would prefer, since there is so much of corruption, that there should be no quota holders for exports at all. Government should do exports and help the Exchequer of the country so that the heavy taxation proposals that have been presented to the House may be lightened.

Regarding imports it will be said that there would be some difficulty. I realize that. But may I point out that during war time the Industries Department or the Commerce Department suggested to the Glass industry whether they would not be prepared to take up the distribution of glassware along with their own production so that the consumer is not fleeced by intermediaries. If the industries concerned could take up the re-sale of goods at cost through their own retailers so that the consumers would get the articles at reasonable prices.....

Mr. President: I am afraid the Honourable Member is going into wider issues. We are not concerned with all that. The only question here is as to whether the House is prepared to give Government powers for the purpose of controlling imports and exports. The Honourable Member need not go into side-issues.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Why I have made certain suggestions on the distribution side is because certain difficulties have been enumerated. Even in the Select Committee we had a discussion on these points and we found that there were certain difficulties.

Mr. President: I do not think it will be permissible to go into those details on the present motion.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: As the Honourable Members must have seen I have made certain suggestions. If this corruption and nepotism is to be stopped, we must see that where any quota holder or licence holder feels that he has been unjustly treated, he should be given an opportunity to place his case before a tribunal. Such appeals should be considered by some independent authority outside the officials of the department concerned, and that is why I have suggested in the amendment that there should be a judicial tribunal. If such a tribunal is established, and appeals go to it much of the corruption can be done away with. Sir, although I support the main object of the Bill, I do not support it in its present form.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) I rise to support the motion moved by the Honourable the Commerce Member. I have heard many things which have been said on this subject in this House, but I feel that the way to look at it is not the way in which some of our colleagues here are looking. It is of great importance that this country should in view of the Geneva Conference arm itself with the list of powers which have been used throughout the war and whose further use, if and when necessary, would be fully justified in so far as war conditions which created these restrictions have not yet disappeared. And it would strengthen the hands of the Indian delegation if they were in a position to say that our country has found it necessary to use these powers during the war period and will continue to find it necessary to use these powers for the next few years. All of us generally and in their desire that there should be no restrictions, but in actual practice is the position of supply, production and availability of goods of such a character that we could leave the field free? Is the judgment of individual merchants, who are importing recklessly what may be used and what may not be required, to be given free play? Is this country to be left to these people to decide for themselves what articles they are going to have? Have we not heard cases where fountain pens, and cosmetics and transparent plastics have come to this country in quantities which this country will probably not consume for the next few years? Have we not the case of the slump in the silk market where against Government's expectation of about 50 lakhs of rupees from the import duty Government actually realized 8 crores and seventy-five lakhs? Are we going to let the resources of this country dissipated and exchange problem left free and undetermined?

Mr. P. B. Gole: The Ordinance is still in force.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If we were to decide to do this, let me mention to the House what would be the consequences. All the available resources will be locked up in things unessential; all the efforts may be misdirected; everybody would try recklessly to negotiate with foreign people, and there would be at

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some stage or other an abrupt stoppage. In other words the same powers which the Government wants now and which the House hesitates to give may have to be invoked in a much more drastic manner. Do we want to reach a state of such confusion or do we want the Government to be armed with these powers so that they may use them in a proper manner and they may look not to the individual interests of merchants as such but to the common interest of society, so that whatever restrictions they are obliged to place will be calculated and governed by the one consideration, namely how far it is necessary to check operations in certain directions in the interest of the country as a whole.

Now, Sir, that does not mean for a moment that numerous points of detail should not be considered, and I am sure when the Bill is considered clause by clause the Honourable the Commerce Member will give relevant explanations or meet such point as the one made by my Honourable friend regarding the words 'deemed to have been made'. With regard to Mr. Lawson's plea that war time restrictions should not be renewed and as reflected also in an amendment from that side of the House that this law should be restricted to one year, all that I have to say is this. Let the Government of the country, which is now manned by popular people, in whom we have absolute confidence, judge as to the necessity of the powers and if they have, after proper consideration chosen to bring forward this measure, I would not ask the House to turn it down merely on the plea that this is a war time restriction. Isn't the kingdom from which my friends hail exercising all these powers and more? Is not Sir Stafford Cripps trying to make bulk purchases for the States in the British economy? Is there not more than one direction in the powers which either dormant or not used during the war period are now invoked because that Government recognises that there is a real economic crisis and if that country is to be saved it will be saved by consistent and proper effort? If that is so, why cannot we in this country have these powers taken by this Government in which we have confidence and used in a discriminating manner with regard to the details of which I shall speak upon presently.

There is another reason why I think these powers are necessary. As I have been trying to say on previous occasions, this country has a real and genuine production crisis. I want the Government of the country to take prompt and effective measures. Without being rude, if I may say so, I want suggestions which are made by Members of this House not to be turned down with the usual plea that these suggestions have been considered—considered meaning at the level of a Secretary or Deputy Secretary, and sometimes may be the predecessor of the Honourable Member. I do not want them to treat lightly suggestions which are made. But if there is a production crisis and if we want this country's Government to act energetically and with speed and boldness, how can they do so if these powers do not exist? How can they interfere with the right of an individual to import what he likes and export what he likes, as and when he likes, to any country, at any price, and under any conditions he likes? Is that possible? It will be necessary in connection with this production crisis, through which our country is passing, for Government to adopt several measures which I have from time to time indicated as briefly as previous opportunities permitted. I will not use this opportunity of going into them in great detail. I will mention them once again. I still think that this Government ought to draw up a list of articles which are more seriously required in this country and which are in short supply and in which there is a rampant black-market. This Government should also make up a list of our manufactures and our essential minerals and tea and hides and jute and other articles which this country is in a position to supply better than any other country in the world. With these two I should like the agents of this Government to actively roam about the world. They must be intelligent men, and men of status, who will initiate negotiations with other people. We can never get in this country something for nothing but we can always barter and we can always say if you give me this on which I am a little short, I will give you this on which you are short, and

may be we shall find that our production crisis could be met by this kind of effort. By the measure which I am indicating, a certain amount of restriction and direction to the import and export trade of the country may be necessary. That means that the quantities available for exports through the normal channels may have to be restricted and Government may take it up for the more essential barter which they will negotiate in this manner. Similarly, private import of certain things may be restricted and Government may bring up all these goods and distribute them in such a manner so that it leads not only the increase of the supply but the bringing down of the price, the distribution which will destroy the black-market and the reaching of these goods to the consumer who will make use of them and not hoard them. All these measures require that Government should have these powers and that they should use these powers with care.

Then, Sir, with regard to these imports, let me indicate what sort of confusion this particular administration unfortunately has fallen into, and it is that which has brought forth some rather very strong criticisms from various quarters. I was told, Sir, that they were very short of steel, licenses for steel were not freely given for importation, and the reason given was that the Controller of Steel in Calcutta had made enquiries from countries all over the world and he had found that there was no supply of steel available in this country. Now, I put it to you that this heavily worked official, from whose office we do not get replies for a matter of months, how had he already ascertained from every country in the world whether steel in any form, *i.e.*, scrap, billets, round bars or sections, or any other form, in any quantity, was or was not available? And if he did ascertain this—which is an impossible feat—is it not possible that since he ascertained that, conditions elsewhere may have changed and some small lots may have become available? This method of choking off the supply of an article which is very urgently required in this country indicates nothing but slovenly neglect and a tendency to drift and a tendency to sleep in Government, which I trust will be removed. We want licenses for steel. It is this kind of abuse which has rendered the import and export control liable to criticism and I must say that I hope that this will not occur in future. Take the other case. Government had the power through the Reserve Bank and the Exchange Control Bill to restrict gold and silver and they used this power at a moment when the importing of gold and silver into this country by private banks was already causing a world scandal and a world comment and it was putting money at the expense of India into the pockets of continental foreigners, which was not very desirable. But how could Government act in this manner? I think myself that from Gold and silver Government could make four to ten crores of rupees in the forthcoming year. Had not the Government the power under the Foreign Exchange Control Bill how could they act? May I ask, how this prompt measure which they took overnight, how they would have been able to do this? Therefore, I say that it is necessary for the Government to have these powers and to use them for improving the supply position of the country, to use them for easing the consumers' outcry against black-markets and generally to regulate the trade.

Now, Sir, there are various aspects of the administration of this Government which have been criticised. These criticisms in my mind do not amount to a negation of the Bill. They amount to this—to a note of caution, to a request that in the administration of these powers, there should not be harshness and there should not be complacency but that vigilance should be exercised and as far as possible officers of a superior level should look more into this and there should not be too much of a delegation of authority to officers of lower status.

Sir, abuses have taken place in this department and I know that several high officials were sent away from their jobs, because there were things mentioned about them, though unproved and they were not prosecuted. Human nature being what it is it is possible that these abuses did take place. I know in the streets of Bombay it was common talk that people could go to Delhi and

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get licences. For instance, evacuee Jews from Poland, Czechoslovakia and Iraq and others who were in Bombay, it is notorious, came to Delhi and got licences for all sorts of articles. They commandeered these commodities and then they hawked these licences round. I will mention another case, a case which was reported to me of a man who got a licence for the export of 50 tons of aluminium utensils. This man who had never exported any aluminium in his life before walked into an aluminium office and offered 50 tons for export. He did not know what are these utensils, what is the price, who will buy them or who will sell them. When asked how he got the license he just said "Well I got the license." The fact of the matter was in this particular case that he was the brother of some superintendent or head clerk in the department who knew all the ropes and the license was issued. As in the case of ration cards and petrol coupons, some of these licences are clearly forgeries and there is no means for anybody to check them up. In some cases the figures of the amounts permitted are often altered. But in all cases where an entirely new party gets hold of a licence, he is, in my opinion, suspect. It is a case of either corruption, favouritism or forgery. That criticism cannot apply to firms which have been doing this work in the past. They at least know the trade. They have connections at the other end. They are the proper trade channel.

This distinction between new and old firms has also been overdone. The Government have made a perfectly arbitrary rule. Either 1937 or 1938 or some such basic year is taken, and the quota of a firm is determined on the basis of what they exported, to which countries, in which month, etc. That was the policy of the previous government. Instead of having the honesty to say that they will restrict the exports to certain articles, they made the rules so devious and the qualifications so difficult that it was difficult for the most experienced and well established firms in the trade to qualify under the various requirements which were put down. A firm had sent to Italy but not to Genoa. If not, they could not get an export licence. I believe that since then considerable improvement has taken place and I am sure the Honourable the Commerce Member will be able to explain to this House that today the policy of the Government is not to restrict the export for the sake of restriction, as it was the case with the previous government, which had other objectives. Today the policy of the Government should be to permit as much export as possible. In fact I suggested the other day they should examine whether India's exporting capacity should be limited and whether in view of having to import food, capital goods, machinery, consumer goods, etc., it would not be proper to make a special effort to increase our exports. Therefore today the position of this Government is and should be that they are looking of the economic life of the country as a whole and they are adjusting these matters in a manner which will not cause an unnecessary distress or outcry in this country.

I do feel that Government ought to consider this question. Why are people after export licences? Why all this outcry and suspicion of corruption and favouritism? I have not the slightest doubt that corruption exists. I have also not the least doubt that the volume of it as spoken of is very highly exaggerated. There is no department of Government, for the matter of that there is no private firm or business in which a certain measure of opportunity for corruption does not exist. All that we are anxious to see is: is it kept down? Is a mistake discovered in one case not allowed to repeat itself again? If that is so, then the administration would not certainly be open to the same outcry.

With regard to state trading reference has been made. Why are people after these export licences? Because when the exports are restricted to certain markets the alternative sources of receiving the same goods does not exist. The profits are very high. There is high inflation in certain countries outside, in which case goods going out from India are necessarily sold at a very high profit. I had this morning ascertained in the course of the question hour the cost at

which goods can be imported into this country and the control price of the same articles in this country. In most cases the control price was very much above the cost at which we would be able to import these commodities. This in itself is a proof that it would be very profitable for people to export goods. When people are unable to export in one form, they export in another form, either slightly manufactured or dressed or done up. When things are so sent and they do not get licences, I do not think the Honourable the Commerce Member is to blame. I have heard that from many ports goods have been exported, particularly from the west coast of India and from such Indian States as Jhanjiri to which my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil referred the other day. Though certain commodities have definitely been prohibited from export they have been exported under a misnomer. When Silk cloth or superior cotton cloth is sent out, it is called timber or tile. Inside the tile or timber consignment may be the silk or cotton cloth. The port authorities have their records clear. One barge went full with tiles the records say. All these dodges are there and are occurring, because private individuals are evading the laws and the profits in this case go entirely into private pockets.

I would like to raise the point which I had raised on a previous occasion, that it is high time and more particularly because of this distinction between old quota holders and new quota holders, that we did try to see whether the trade of this country cannot benefit the State in a larger measure than it is doing now, and as to whether it could do so the examples and precedents are there. We had the U. K. C. C. a corporation owned by the United Kingdom which did trade in this country for crores of rupees. They made enormous profits. I have been wanting in this House to get the attention of Government to tax them, because they were liable to taxation, as they were trading in this country. I fear that this Government has not yet been able to collect any tax money from the U. K. C. C. Today the cotton crop of Egypt is purchased by the U. K. The sugar crop of Cuba is purchased and the cotton produced by America is purchased by the U. K. There are state corporations assisting exports and various other measures are taken in Japan. There were exporting associations which had a monopoly of exports. It was worked in such a way that nominally private individuals exported but they had to work through these corporations, so that a substantial amount of the gain was secured for the state. The Honourable the Commerce Member has already in the matter of cotton export to Japan tried to get some cloth in return. I was told that if you buy things from Japan you have to pay in dollars. If we have to pay in dollars, which is obviously scarce, would it not be desirable to produce something which Japan can take and would it not be desirable for the state, as state, to enter into these transactions at high level without the intervention of middlemen as government?

1 P.M. ment to government transactions and secure substantial economic benefit to this country? This again would not be possible unless the powers which are delineated in this Bill were made available.

In conclusion I would like to say that these are wide powers. Nobody disputes that they are very extensive powers. The proposition I put to the House is that we have confidence in this Government. This very House gave powers to a foreign Government which was not responsible to us in the past. That Government abused those powers and in this very House we have had examples of this abuse related and detailed from time to time. Therefore I have no hesitation in saying that these powers should be given to the Government. But I should like to say at the same time having regard to the criticisms which have appeared in the press and which have fallen from several Honourable Members in this House and having regard to the inherent possibility of abuse of the powers implied in these times when commodities are scarce and when opportunities to trade are sought after very assiduously by people with money in their pocket, having regard to all these, whether it will not be possible for Government to create a kind of semi-official body which will advise Government on

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 this subject, bring complaints with regard to the operation of these controls to the notice of Government. I do not want to dogmatize but I want to say that Government should protect themselves and I feel that they will be protecting also the business community which is concerned if they did so. I know the Honourable Member does receive representations from Chambers of Commerce and makes it a point to visit some of these Chambers of Commerce when he goes down, but that is not enough. What I feel is that either through the Standing Committee attached to his Department—a small Sub-Committee thereof—or through any other body which he may put up for this purpose. I think a full account should be given of what has been done in the course of a month by this Department as to how many licences have been issued, to whom licences have been issued, to whom they have been refused, to what destinations they have been given. Why should not this information be made available? In Government's own interest I suggest it is very desirable, because there is no solvent of corruption and favouritism except a full description of what Government have done. Is there any need for any secrecy of Government operations? Would it not do great good if all these matters were published and would it not be an advantage to have the kind of Board which I am suggesting? I may just recall how his predecessor answered my question asking to which companies licences have been given for the importation of provisions in Bombay. He said "Seven companies have been given, but the names cannot be given as it is not in public interest". Sir, it was the most astounding answer that any Commerce Member could give to any Member of this House. It is this kind of secrecy which invites and attracts on Government a lot of criticism with regard to the operation of these controls. I say one of the cures for all this is publicity and widest publicity and another cure is the association of non-officials who will advise Government, who will take from Government their view and tell people what is the exact policy of the Government on the subject. They will take these particulars month by month and distribute them for information. I think they should be made available to all who ask for them. That will indicate that this Government is a bold one and is not afraid to make decisions and not afraid to let the whole world know what they have decided.

I am sure that the Honourable the Commerce Member will meet not only the few legislative points which arise in the drafting of each particular clause but that he will also initiate the administrative measures and the precautions which I have indicated. Subject to these I have great pleasure in supporting the motion.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions, Muhammadan Rural). Sir, I have pressed on several occasions that we do need at present the entire revision of the fiscal policy of the country. We have so long been working on the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission which was appointed after the Great War in 1921. But the circumstances today have entirely changed. They are so different from what they used to be in 1921. In the first instance India is now on the high road of industrialisation. This industrialisation did not exist so acutely and so vigorously in 1921. The second thing is that India is no longer a debtor country. It is a creditor country and we have to recover our sterling balances. The third point in which we differ very much compared with 1921 is that here in these days the prices are very high. They are about three times higher than they were before the war. And the price index in India is higher than the price index in any other country in the world. The next thing is that our whole trade is unbalanced on account of the war emergency and those traditions that we established during the war are still being pursued, which may not be necessary. Lastly we are a free country now. Our trade policy is no longer under the dictatorship of Whitehall. On account of these enormous changes I think it is high time that the Commerce Member

considers seriously the appointment of a Fiscal Commission similar to what the Government of India appointed in 1921.

I am glad that the Finance Member has really taken up the question of taxation policy because we have at present no policy behind us. It depends upon the sweet will of the Finance Member. Just as we require a regular taxation policy we also require a fiscal policy for the guidance of the country because trade has become a gambling business. It is no longer a science. But if we have some kind of policy devised by persons who know the subject and give it to the country then everybody would know what the policy would be and he could work with confidence. At present no tradesman in India can work with confidence. He would not know whether he would get a licence tomorrow or whether the circumstances might change suddenly. This attitude of uncertainty which has now been created in trade and commerce should disappear. We must now begin to adopt this question of trade policy on a scientific basis so that everybody engaged in trade may work with confidence and may progress in a manner which may really be free of gambling.

The second thing is the general attitude of which the present policy is only an outcome. If this policy is really there and it is really laid down by an authoritative Commission then Bills of this kind will no longer be necessary. But in the absence of these things something will have to be done.

Coming to this Bill itself I do not like controls in any shape or form. As I said last time I agree with my friend Chaudhri Sri Chand that control and corruption are the same—I mean there is no difference between control and corruption. These two are synonymous words. If you want to remove corruption, you must remove control. If you remove control, corruption will be removed as a logical consequence.

I was surprised to hear Mr. Manu Subedar from whom I have been hearing for a whole year about the payment of sterling balances. There is not a single occasion in which he has not explained the manner in which the debtor should be treated. By his speech today he probably did not realise that he was undoing all that he has been saying for a whole year. In what way can we get paid. It cannot be in terms of Bank notes. It cannot be in terms of gold and silver. No country possesses treasure by which balance of trade may be equalised. It can only be paid by means of commodities. In one way I would welcome a free import of all consumers goods from the United Kingdom. Then our sterling balances will be paid. If we have only import and no export, our trade becomes very unfavourable and this will destabilise our commercial equilibrium.

For this purpose we require a balanced policy recommended by an authoritative Fiscal Commission. If we begin to import large quantities on one side we will be receiving the sterling balances which my friend Mr. Subedar would like to see. On the other hand our industrialists will object and say—why are you importing so many things from outside and how can the home industries flourish. These are two opposite considerations leading to two opposite directions. Some kind of an equilibrium ought to be pointed out to us by means of a Commission which may speak with an authoritative voice and which may consider every side of the issue.

I said I do not like these licences and controls on principle. Up to the time I heard the famous speech by Joseph Chamberlain in 1901 when he first preached the protection policy I have always been in favour of free trade. Unfortunately the world has gone on the other side and we alone cannot afford to go in for free trade when protection is the order of the day. When protection has been adopted by every other country, we cannot adopt a policy of free trade.

Now, the Fiscal Commission of 1921 gave us definite warning, that we must have safeguards in three matters, namely, monopoly, combine and hoarding. The Government never took any step in order to safeguard the consumers of this country against these three evils. Then there ought to be no combine but we

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see there are combines in every commodity. Government do not protect us against these combines. Then there is hoarding. These are three vices which really affect the whole policy of protection versus free trade. No steps have been taken by our previous governments against these evils by any scientific planning. My Honourable friend the Commerce Member has been here only a few months but during the last 25 years Government have done nothing in checking these three evils and my friend has got a legacy from his predecessors.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can continue his speech after lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, before the House adjourned for lunch I was pressing the need of appointing a Fiscal Commission on the lines of the Fiscal Commission of 1922 in order to advise us about the most economic use of our existing resources and the way in which we may solve the problems. I also mentioned by the way that in whatever form control may be introduced in this country, some corruption is unavoidable. So, we should try to remove the control and adopt those measures which the Fiscal Commission may suggest.

Coming to the question of import and export, the position of import is different from the position of export. In the case of import there is only one consideration which we have to bear in mind that our import should not affect prejudicially our industries. My opinion is that we should protect our industries by means of import duties and not by restrictions of licences. If we levy sufficient import duties which may be protective, then we need not very much care about licences. If the protective duties have been imposed, let there be freedom of imports. Those duties will themselves be a restriction and will apply to all. In that case, no licences will be necessary and everybody will be free to import anything he likes provided he can sell them in this country with profit. In the case of those articles which we do not want to import in order to protect our own products, then the import protective duties will always be there and no restriction is necessary.

So far as exports are concerned, it is a different problem because we require raw materials for the use of our own countrymen. We cannot afford to meet the requirements of the foreign countries in preference to our own requirements. Therefore, it is very desirable that in this case the Government should be in a position to determine what quantity they can afford to export in the interests of the general prosperity of the country, economic as well as financial. I was rather surprised to learn that in the export of certain articles there is an enormous profit because the internal prices are very low compared with the external prices in the Middle East and other countries roundabout India. In such cases, I think, it is not desirable to give the licences to individuals either on payment of the licensing fee or by any other method. This is the chief source of corruption in the matter of exports, namely, the enormous difference in the prices inside India and outside India. In such cases, instead of giving licences to individuals either on payment in the form of licensing fee or by means of favouritism or patronage, it seems desirable that the Government should undertake this business directly. If they think that a certain quantity of a particular raw material or a particular finished product India can afford to export, then the Government should negotiate with various countries to export this article. The Government may appoint shipping agents here who can hand over the articles to the shipping agents of other countries. Therefore, the whole thing should be taken up by the Government themselves and the issue of licences will no longer be necessary, because in this case we have to intro-

duce a system of rules artificially made which will not apply very correctly in all cases. As was pointed out by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar, Government made the artificial rules that the licences will be given only to those persons who exported in the year 1942 or 1943 or they may take up arbitrarily any other year. We ought not to feed up past boggies, we should also look after the rising generation. I think it is unfair to exclude altogether a person who has never been in trade before, provided he is not a person who comes merely to gamble in his licence. The sale of licences or their transfer should be treated as punishable offence and it should be prohibited. But all this can be avoided if the Government alone becomes the exporter. The Government ought to decide what commodity and to what extent India can afford to send outside. Then, the Government should decide to which country those articles should be exported and they should negotiate with those countries to which they want to export them. Thus, any profit that accrues by these enormous differences in prices prevailing in India and other countries will go to the Government itself and there will be no room left for any corruption in this particular method. Therefore till such time that we get the advice from the Fiscal Commission which I have just suggested, we may adopt the steps which I am mentioning. As regards imports, the only restriction should be by means of protective duties and as little restriction as possible, because we are short of consumer goods all round. The more consumer goods we can introduce in the country by the ingenuity of tradesmen, the better, provided they do not affect the prosperity of our industries which can very well be protected by means of protective duties. As regards exports, the Government alone should have the right to decide the quantity and the country to which the commodities may be exported and the entire profit will come to the taxpayers. On this question some examples were given by the previous speakers. But those difficulties will not arise provided the Government is the only authority to export and this provision should continue to operate till we get the advice of the Fiscal Commission.

Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Santhal Parganas: Non-Muhammadan) Sir, this is a very small Bill consisting only of six clauses, but it has very far reaching effect. While introducing the Bill, the Honourable the Commerce Member gave two reasons why it was necessary. First is that we have got a limited quantity of foreign exchange at our disposal which should be utilised for importing such materials which are absolutely necessary for the industrialisation of this country. Secondly while restricting the import, he said that we want to import such materials and to such an extent as do not compete with the indigenous products of our country here so that these things may not be flooded into our country and compete with our indigenous products and kill our industries. Sir, so far as the principle underlying this control is concerned, nobody who has got the interest of the country at heart can object to it. But the whole question resolves itself into the way in which these controls are administered. From our experience of the administration of these controls in the past, we find that the remedy is worse than the disease. Mr. Manu Subedar pointed out that he has no objection to the consideration and passing of this Bill, provided the suggestions he made are carried out. One of the suggestions was that list of materials to be exported or imported and quantity thereof should be prepared. The other necessary thing is that the issue of licences for exports and imports should be regulated in such a way that the Government may not have the sole power or it should not be left in the hands of some officials only to distribute those licences to whomsoever they like and thereby debar those people who are genuine traders. Sir, any monopolist's power exercised by government officials will lead to corruption and nepotism in the matter of issue of licences. Mr. Manu Subedar asserted that corruption was not rampant to such a great extent as has been made out in the House. But the House may remember that this question

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of corruption was discussed at length on a cut motion. At the same time he has given very many instances of corruption. If we take into consideration those instances of corruption, it becomes necessary that while accepting this principle of control, some such provision should be made in the body of the Act which will regulate the administration of this control in proper channels. If that is not done the result will be that the very object with which this Bill is promoted will be defeated. At present the Defence of India Rules are in force. Even then as pointed out by my Honourable friends Mr. Gole and Mr. Manu Subedar, very many foreign things have been imported into India. For instance plastic material, silk etc. Now India has imported such large quantities of luxury goods as were not necessary that the stock will not be exhausted for a long number of years to come. It was in the hands of the Government to regulate the utilisation of the foreign exchange in such a way that only really useful articles are sent for and not useless and luxury articles like lip sticks, etc. If only the Government had been vigilant and if they had the interest of the country at heart they could not have frittered away the foreign exchange over the purchase of these materials. Our apprehension is that if Government is given power as is sought for in this Bill, the result will be that such materials will be imported which are not required and besides licence will be given only to such persons who are in the good books of Government and the result will be the very object of the Bill will be defeated. My submission before the House is that this Bill should not be passed unless such provisions are incorporated in this Bill which will give a proper lead to the administration of this Act. I shall suggest later on when the Bill is taken up for consideration clause by clause as to what amendments are necessary in order to make the Bill more equitable from the point of view of administration of the provisions. I do not want to take up more time of the House.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Choudhuri (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan):

Sir, I have listened with great attention to the speech just now delivered by my Honourable friend Mr. Jhunjhunwala. He has not touched upon the period during which this Bill is to be in force. So far as the period during which this Act will remain in force is concerned, I must join issue with my Honourable friend. My Honourable friend is not worried about the period of duration of the Bill, one year or two years or any number of years, he is only concerned with a certain number of amendments in the provisions of the Bill. Sir, it is very refreshing to find myself and my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson in some agreement so far as this point is concerned. Of course, I do not venture to say that great minds think alike, so far as I am concerned. But I can say at least this much that I, who have all along been one of the most bitter critics of Europeans who have been protesting against European interests flourishing in India, should come so near my Honourable friend in such an important measure, and probably *vice versa* also is true so far as Mr. Lawson is concerned

An Honourable Member: What is *vice versa*?

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Choudhuri: My Honourable friend Mr. Lawson was perhaps bitterly opposed all along to Indian interests, as I was opposed to European interests, but we have now come together so far as the extension of the period of time of this Bill is concerned. That is *vice versa*. Well, Sir, so far as this Bill is concerned, it is one of the offsprings of Defence of India Rules. Like all unwanted offsprings, it has got to be maintained, it has got to be reared up only so long as it is absolutely necessary.

The moment it is found that it is not necessary, it has got to be discarded without any feeling of compunction. Therefore, I suggest that the extent of life of this Bill should be for a period of one year only. I do not understand Mr. Lawson's amendment so far as it seeks to fix the extended period to be two years only. The Government of today, as we see it, is a popular Government and we can trust it to extend it only to such period as it may consider fit. But why I am suggesting that it should be only for a year is this. It may be found in the course of this year or in the course of next year that the operation of this Bill is no longer necessary and if the operation is to be stopped, then the Honourable the Commerce Member will be put to the necessity of bringing in another Repealing Bill which will take some time. Therefore I suggest that this Bill may be in force for one year only and if circumstances require its further extension it may be extended from time to time as the Government of India may consider fit.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Ohundrigar (Commerce Member). Sir, I have carefully listened to the debate on this Bill and I find that there is general agreement as to the need of legislation empowering Government to control imports and exports. As my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar expressed it in very forceful language, we are living in times of great shortage of several commodities and articles. If all restrictions on export were removed, I have not the slightest doubt that many essential things which we need in this country—like oils and oilseeds, sugar, textiles, tea, etc., to name only a few—would be exported in such large quantities that we may not have sufficient left for ourselves. I say this because I am flooded with applications every day from people who want to export these commodities outside India where they can realise better prices. If these restrictions were removed, it would certainly cause hardship to the people of this country, and therefore it is necessary that Government should have the power of controlling, prohibiting or restricting exports as may be found necessary. I may also mention that the passing of this legislation does not mean that Government will use these powers in respect of every article or commodity merely because the legislature has placed these powers in their hands. There are articles which are allowed to be freely exported and imported even now, when circumstances do not require that there should be any restriction on their export or import. But the position has to be reviewed from time to time. At the sessions of this Assembly in November 1946, suggestions were being made by several Honourable Members to liberalise our policy regarding imports, as certain commodities which could be imported from abroad were in short supply in this country; and in order to relieve shortage of those articles, it was suggested that we should be liberal in allowing imports. Certain changes were made in the policy and the policy regarding imports was liberalised, and the result was that the country was flooded with certain commodities like fountain pens and art silk as mentioned by several Honourable Members. As Government had these powers, they were able to stop further imports of these articles. So long as there was a famine of those articles in the country and the prices were very high and black market prices were charged, imports were allowed liberally. So it is a question of policy which has to be determined according to circumstances from time to time, and the Government policy also has to be reviewed. Therefore it is necessary to vest powers in Government for the purpose of regulating imports and exports.

Coming to particular criticisms, my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson referred to clause 3 (1) (b) and asked why it was necessary to have the power of "prohibiting, restricting or otherwise controlling the bringing into any port or place in British India of goods of any specified description intended to be taken out of British India without being removed from the ship or conveyance in which they are being carried." When he first raised this

[Mr. I. I. Chundrigar.]

question in the Select Committee, I asked him whether he could point out a single instance in which Government had misused these powers which were vested in them under the Defence of India Act and Rules, and he was not able to point out any. It is necessary to have these powers in reserve to be used in certain contingencies, and I will mention only a few of them. There are certain articles about which there are certain international conventions,—for example, regarding trade in morphia and certain other drugs. Government want to have the power to prevent such things from coming into ports. There may also be other cases. I will give an illustration. Suppose there is a struggle going on between the Dutch and the Indonesian people, and the Dutch people were to send certain steamers which were to call at a port in India. Government may think in certain cases of this type that it is necessary not to allow them to touch here and to bring any goods of a specified description into port or place in British India. There may be other considerations. Take for instance the case of South Africa. We have applied sanctions against them on account of the treatment which is being meted out to Indians in South Africa. Suppose certain ships from South Africa on their way to other countries were to stop at Bombay or other places in British India: it may be necessary to take certain action in the matter. But the gist of the matter is that the powers referred to here have not been misused in the past in any case; and I do not think there will be any occasion for complaint as to the use of these powers in future.

The second matter referred to by my Honourable friend was in regard to clause 3(2) and he said that it was not necessary to have a provision of this type. The same point was referred to by my Honourable friend Mr. Gole and he referred to section 19 of the Sea Customs Act and said that these powers were already there. That section, however, only gives powers to Government to "prohibit or restrict the bringing or taking by sea or by land goods of any specified description into or out of British India or any specified port thereof either generally or from there to any specified country, region, port or place beyond the limits of British India." Now the present Bill goes a step further and it gives power to Government to make provision for "prohibiting, restricting or otherwise controlling, in all cases or in specified classes of cases, and subject to such exceptions, if any, as may be made by or under the order" certain imports and exports. Therefore it is necessary to make this provision when we are giving more general powers under clause 3(1).

Then Mr. Lawson said that the second part of sub-clause (2) may be deleted. I tried to explain to him that the power under section 183 of the Sea Customs Act is already vested in the officer who is adjudging the case, but under Section 183 the officer is bound to give an option to the person who has imported certain articles against the provisions of any order of Government either to have the goods confiscated or to pay a certain penalty,

3 P.M. and therefore the option would remain with the offender or law-breaker who has brought the goods against the orders of Government to decide whether he should pay the fine or allow his goods to be confiscated. What the second part of this sub-clause provides, is that instead of the option lying with the offender, the option shall now be with the officer adjudging the case and he should decide whether in a particular case the person committing a breach of the order should have the goods confiscated or whether he should be given the option to pay certain fine. I may also mention that under section 167 the officer adjudging the case has not only the power of ordering that the goods in respect of which some order of Government has been contravened shall be confiscated but it also empowers the officer to order "that any person concerned in such offence shall be liable to

a penalty not exceeding three times the value of the goods or not exceeding Rs. 1000'. Therefore the power of levying a penalty in addition to confiscation is already there, but there may be cases where a person may be committing a breach of a certain order in a very deliberate manner and it may be necessary that he should not be given the option of paying a fine in lieu of confiscation. As the officer is bound to give him the option under section 188 of the Sea Customs Act, the option lies with the offender himself whether he shall have the goods confiscated or pay a certain penalty. What we now propose to provide for is that that option should not remain with the offender but that option should remain with the officer. I may also mention that most of the powers under the Sea Customs Act are exercised by the Collector of Customs; he is the deciding authority. Against his decision an appeal lies to the Central Board of Revenue, and even against the decision of the Central Board of Revenue, in certain cases an appeal lies to the Member in Charge. Therefore, supposing a certain Customs Officer were to take a perverse view in some case, even then his decision is not final. The person concerned has got a right of appeal to the Central Board of Revenue and if it is not a case for confiscation, I have no doubt that the order will be reviewed by the officer concerned.

Then Mr. Gole mentioned that these powers, though they may have been necessary in war time, are no longer necessary in peace time. The powers are still necessary because the times are abnormal in the sense that we are not in a position to allow all the goods in the country to be exported if some people prefer to pay fancy prices for them. We have to conserve those goods for use in the country. On the other hand, some of our industries are in such a condition that they require a certain protection not only by the levy of a protective duty but by the restriction or prohibition of imports. When the economy of the country is in such a state, such a legislation is necessary even in peace time. He himself referred to the country being flooded with certain items which were mentioned in the earlier part of my speech. That happened because certain articles were placed on what is called 'open general licence' and 'universal open general licence'. It was due to public pressure to remove the restrictions on imports that certain articles which were then in short supply were placed on the Universal Open General Licence with the result that that commodity could be imported here from any part of the world. Experience has shown that even that policy went too far and had to be revised. Complaints were received from the Reserve Bank of India that certain articles have arrived in the country in very large quantities and further imports should be completely stopped. That action has been taken according to the advice of the Reserve Bank, and the Reserve Bank has also advised other Banks not to open letters of credit about those items which are already in abundant supply here, and which are no longer required in the country. That in itself shows that a legislation of this character is necessary.

Then Mr. Gole referred to sub-clause (3) of clause 3 regarding 'clearance'. I think here he referred to Section 89. Section 89 of the Sea Customs Act reads thus:

"When the owner of any goods entered for home-consumption and (if such goods be liable to duty) assessed under section 87, has paid the import-duty (if any) assessed on such goods and any charges payable under this Act in respect of the same, the Customs officer may make an order clearing the same; and such order shall be sufficient authority for the removal of such goods by the owner."

He will find that Section 89 only refers to the prevention of clearance before the duty and other charges are paid. It would not apply when Government desires to stop clearance on any other ground. Now supposing certain goods in spite of the order of Government are brought here, it will be necessary to prohibit their clearance. Here I will mention a specific case: We have got several Salt Works on the West Coast and Government has prepared a scheme

[Mr I I Chundrigar] under which the Eastern Coast is supplied with salt as far as possible from the production in the West Coast and it is only to the extent of deficit that salt is allowed to be imported from outside. Now supposing people try to dump salt here and some people did bring salt here without an import licence and if they were prepared to pay the duty and other charges under section 89 the Customs Officer will have no power to prevent them from doing so. It was only by virtue of the powers possessed under the Defence of India Rules, as extended by the Emergency Powers Continuance Ordinance that their clearance could be prevented. I have mentioned this as an illustration. Now supposing some other commodity not required in the country is imported into the country and if the party says 'I am prepared to pay the customs duty and other charges' he cannot be prevented from doing so. It is therefore necessary that this power should be rested in Government.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I was speaking of the unrestricted goods. Why should provision be made?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: If there is no prohibition for the import of goods then you do not expect Government to say that they will not allow those goods to be cleared. All the powers are supposed to be read in the same context.

Mr P. B. Gole: But the wording of sub clause (8) is too wide—"any goods".

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Sub clause (8) reads

Notwithstanding anything contained in the aforesaid Act, the Central Government may by order published in the official Gazette, prohibit restrict or impose conditions on the clearance whether for home consumption or for shipment abroad, of any goods or class of goods imported into British India.

Therefore these powers are the same as are taken under sub clause (1) of clause 8 for prohibiting restricting or otherwise controlling imports. It may generally be assumed that action under sub clause (8) would be taken only in respect of those goods about which action is taken.

Mr P. B. Gole: Why not say restricted or prohibited goods instead of "any goods" under sub clause (8) of clause 8.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Because the words "any goods" are used at both places. There is another contingency. Supposing

Sjt N V Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non Muhammadan Rural) The goods actually come and you take a decision to prohibit!

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: This is for the purpose of clearance. Assume that certain goods have arrived and are in bond. They are occupying certain space there. In the meanwhile supposing large imports of foodgrains from other countries arrive and space is wanted for storing them. Government should have the power to order that these goods must be cleared within a week or ten days by which time they want the accommodation. A case of this type occurred in Calcutta where sufficient warehousing accommodation was not available and we had to give notice under similar provisions even in respect of goods the imports of which were allowed by Government.

Mr. P. B. Gole. Cannot this be done under Section 89 of the Sea Customs Act?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: S 89 does not empower Government to do so. It would permit Government to levy customs duty. When this point was first mentioned by Mr Lawson, I again asked him whether he could point out a single instance in which Government had misused its powers and he was not able to do so. What I want to point out to the House is that Government is not likely to use its powers unreasonably, if these powers are placed in their hands.

Then he referred to clause 5 and objected to the words "deemed to have been made under this Act". It may be that a certain order is passed by Government and actually purports to have been passed under this Act. It is possible that in certain cases Government passes an order without making a reference to this particular Act. It is to provide for such contingencies that these words are used in all enactments of this nature. This enactment is not an exception to the general rule. Whenever similar provisions have to be made, the words generally used are "If any person contravenes any order made or deemed to have been made under this Act. . . . This is the common phraseology which has been taken from the other enactments.

Then he referred to Clause 7 and asked why it is necessary to have this provision, when similar provision was not made in Defence of India Rules. He seems to have overlooked the provisions of sections 16 and 17 of the Defence of India Act which contains similar provisions. Similar provisions are to be found in every other similar enactment, as officers who are acting *bona fide* in the exercise of their powers have to be given protection.

Then Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai said that though the powers were no doubt necessary, he felt that the powers had been misused on some occasions in the past and he referred to the case of the Moskatli Cloth Market Association, Ahmedabad. I know that this case is not before the House, but I would like to give a brief explanation in order that the Members may understand how sometimes wrong allegations are made against certain officers. What happened was that after the control on the export of cloth was imposed, persons who had exported cotton piece-goods during the basic period were asked to make their applications. Those members of this Association who now apply, did not make any application in 1943 and other parties of Bombay applied for export permits and their case was enquired into and they produced bills of lading to prove that they had made certain exports to Burma. In 1943 they were given the permits. The members of this Association then protested but their case was considered and it was rejected. Then in April 1946 the members of the Association again made an application saying that those people who had been given export licenses on the basis of their exports in the basic period were not the real exporters but their agents. The case was enquired into, as Mr. Lallubhai has himself mentioned, by the Additional Secretary of the Department. In the meantime another application was received in July 1946 and a third application in October 1946. This case was fully enquired into by the Deputy Chief Controller of Exports at Bombay. The case was again examined by the Chief Controller of Exports at headquarters and ultimately it was again re-examined by the Additional Secretary of the Commerce Department, and he has after careful consideration laid down certain standards which Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai himself read out. The whole point for consideration is this. Whether the members of this Association can be deemed to be exporters or whether the Bombay parties are to be deemed to be exporters. The claims of the Bombay parties are that they were the real exporters. They purchased the goods from the members of this Association because they held the selling agencies of certain mills and they were only purchasing cloth from them. The point for consideration is who is the real exporter—the man who shifts the goods from Bombay or the man who sent the goods from Ahmedabad.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: The question is that these Ahmedabad merchants sold to Burma merchants by telegram and letter.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That is what I am trying to show. In those cases where the officer who has investigated is satisfied that it is really the Ahmedabad party who has sold the goods in Rangoon, he will be, as stated in the order which Mr. Lallubhai has read out, treated as the exporter. But where he will find that it is the Bombay party, in that case the latter will not be deemed to be an exporter. That is only a question of fact to be ascertained as to who was the real exporter.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: In categories (a) and (b) decision was given in my presence.

Mr. President: That does not arise now.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Lastly, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai and also some other members said that the imports and exports should be done by Government, i.e., that there should be what they called State trading. There are certain difficulties in the way. Take for example, the question of the export of cotton piecegoods. Some countries require particular qualities or types of cloth. One quality may be very popular in one market but may not be as popular in another. Therefore some sort of expert knowledge of the trade is necessary to undertake this work. I do not mean to say that the difficulties are insuperable. Government can engage persons, who may be acquainted with the line and do the work. When this suggestion was made to me from several quarters I examined the possibility of adopting that suggestion and I also placed it before the Standing Advisory Committee of the Commerce Department. The Committee have come to the conclusion that we must as an experimental measure try the system which comes midway between State trading and private trading and it is this. They said that we should invite public tenders by giving an advertisement in the press that Government wants to export so much quantity of article A to a country called X, and anybody who wants to have the right of export may say "I will give to Government so much per ton and this is the quantity which I want to export." After full consideration, the Standing Advisory Committee recommended that as an experimental measure we may try this system in three commodities. One is oil and oilseeds, another is crushed bones and bone grist and the third is soap. Much will depend on the result of the experiment that we propose to carry out. If the experiment is successful and Government can get a substantial revenue out of this experiment, it will be tried in other fields also. It may be that if the tender system is not found to work satisfactorily, we may have to go the whole hog and adopt the system of State trading in certain commodities as suggested. That is a new ground which we are trying to tread and we are trying an experiment in that direction.

Mr. Manu Subedar rightly supported the principle of export and import trade control and he rightly said that we cannot leave it to the individual judgment of the various traders who have got their self-interest in the matter to decide what articles should be allowed to be exported or imported and that Government must look to the common interests of all the parties and of the people of the whole country before coming to a decision on this point. He also rightly drew the attention of the members of the European group to the fact that in the United Kingdom powers to control exports and imports are vested in Government and are probably being exercised more strictly than they are being exercised in India.

Mr. Manu Subedar particularly referred to two questions: one was about steel imports and another about the import of gold and silver. He mentioned as to how it would have been impossible for Government to restrict or prohibit the import of gold and silver unless powers had been placed in the hands of the Government and how Government would have been unable to prevent money being put into the pockets of certain 'continental sellers' as he put it. The same considerations apply here. As to the suggestion about steel imports, though the Industries Department is now dealing with the question of steel imports, I have already taken up the question with the Industries Department. I had a discussion with the Industries Member and we are considering a scheme by which we propose to import certain quantities of those items of steel, which are badly required by the people here, such as those mentioned by Mr. Subedar, plain sheets, corrugated sheets, bars, etc.

Probably I think Mr. Subedar was slightly misinformed about what the Iron and Steel Controller at Calcutta

Mr. Manu Subedar: This was in one of the Industries Department notes given to us in the Standing Committee of the Industries Department and the condemnation there was not of the Commerce Department but of the Industries Department which was content to receive the information from the Iron and Steel Controller at Calcutta as to whether anywhere in the world anybody could have any steel for India and because he was satisfied that there will be none, therefore licences were not to be given.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I am just trying to clear the same point. Mr. Manu Subedar probably recollects that he mentioned this fact to me and when he did so, I immediately took it up with the Industries Department and the Iron and Steel Controller. The reply given to me by the Iron and Steel Controller was not that iron and steel is not available today in any part of the world but that iron and steel is not available at the price at which it is sold in India in any of those countries and difficulties would be created if iron and steel was allowed to be imported here at higher prices, when the local iron and steel was sold at a lower price. That was the objection which he mentioned to me. Then he modified his attitude by suggesting that if iron and steel could be imported at about Rs. 100 more per ton than the local price he would allow the imports. The matter is being considered further and we have not allowed it to rest there. We are actually drawing up a list of the quantities which we should try to import from foreign countries even if the prices are higher than those prevailing here and his suggestion is receiving attention.

Incidentally I might mention that even though we are so short of iron and steel here, our department receives so many applications for their export from India and every one of them is turned down. That would show the dangers which we will have to encounter if powers to prohibit exports in such cases are not vested in Government.

Then Mr. Manu Subedar mentioned the case of certain evacuee Jews. I have already passed orders that these people should no longer be given any permits and I have also called for a report and I think the necessary action will be taken. As to the instance which he mentioned about aluminium, which is not now dealt with by the department, I could give me some more information, he can rest assured that the matter will be pursued and will not be dropped.

Mr. Manu Subedar also mentioned that even though the distinction between old and new firms should be there, it should not be so rigid. This is also a matter about which the Standing Advisory Committee of the Commerce Department was consulted and we are evolving a new policy about the same. Then as regards his suggestion about expanding exports I have already dealt with it in reply to the question which he put to me. The matter is being examined and I would be very glad to have any suggestions from him and the other members of the House.

Then Mr. Manu Subedar mentioned something about the way goods are exported under a misdescription, like cotton piecegoods going under the description of timber. So long as human nature is what it is, it would be very difficult to ensure that not a single case of this type will take place. But all possible precautions are being taken and so far as certain ports on the western coast, mentioned by him, are concerned, I can assure him that definite steps have been taken in the matter and exports from those ports are now completely prohibited.

Dr. Zia Uddin referred to the appointment of a Fiscal Commission at this stage. I should say there is no direct connection between this legislation and his suggestion. But that is a matter which Government will examine. For the moment the decision of Government is that the power to control exports and imports should be vested in them.

Then he elaborated certain principles about protection. I do not think I need go into those principles at this stage because this Bill does not deal with protection.

[Mr. I. I. Chundigar.]

Then he said that in the trade with certain countries like the Middle East and other countries there is a great margin of profit and that is why there is a scramble for licences. That is a matter, as I say, which we are examining. We are trying to experiment about three commodities. So far as exports to countries where prices are not controlled and where prices are much higher than the Indian prices, Government will examine the question of state trading and doing export on their own behalf.

Then Mr. Jhunjhunwala mentioned that the principle of the Bill is all right but that certain officials were corrupt and therefore it was not properly administered. In an administration dealing with the control of the export and import of a vast country like this, we have to depend upon a large number of officials. It would be impossible for one, two or three officers to do the job. All we can do is to keep a strict vigil and if any instance is brought to the notice of Government, even though it may be an old instance, we are prepared to enquire into the matter and take necessary action.

Lastly, Mr. Chaudhri said that the life of the Bill should not be more than a year. I do not see any prospect of the shortage in many commodities being relieved in the course of one year. Things like textiles, sugar, oils and oilseeds, I believe, will be in short supply for a much longer period and therefore the powers will be necessary beyond a year. But I want to impress upon the House one fact. By passing this legislation the House does not say that the powers under the Bill shall be used for three years. It only empowers the Government to pass an order for prohibiting, restricting or controlling export or import of a particular commodity, if it finds it necessary to do so. If it is not found necessary to utilise the provisions of this Bill after one year, Government will not utilise them, and it will not be necessary, as Mr. Chaudhri thought it was necessary, to bring in a Repealing Act or Bill before this House. Government can cancel the order passed under this Act and automatically the restrictions will cease. Sir, I think that this is a very necessary piece of legislation and the House will adopt it.

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill to continue for a limited period powers to prohibit or control imports and exports, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is,

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Sir, I move

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following Proviso be added, namely—
'Provided that no permits shall be issued in favour of any persons or class of persons under the order.'"

Mr. President: If Honourable Members have no objection, I suggest that all the amendments to this may be moved at this stage and then the discussion may take place, because I think the discussion would otherwise be overlapping to some extent.

Several Honourable Members: We have no objection.

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following Proviso be added, namely—
'Provided that no permits shall be issued in favour of any persons or class of persons under the order.'"

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: I beg to move.

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following Proviso be added, namely :
Provided that the Central Government may not issue licence or permits in favour of any particular person or class of persons for importing or exporting the restricted commodities."

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following Proviso be added, namely :
Provided that the Central Government may not issue licence or permits in favour of any particular person or class of persons for importing or exporting the restricted commodities."

Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: I beg to move.

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following Proviso be added, namely :
'Provided that in disposing of applications and issuing permits under this order the following principle shall be adopted—
(a) 75 per cent *pro rata* to all the established shippers, and
(b) 25 per cent *pro rata* to other applicants'."

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following Proviso be added, namely :
'Provided that in disposing of applications and issuing permits under this order the following principle shall be adopted—
(a) 75 per cent *pro rata* to all the established shippers, and
(b) 25 per cent *pro rata* to other applicants'."

Now there are three amendments, one by Mr Gole, another by Mr. Chaudhuri and a third by Mr Jhunjhunwala.

Mr. P. B. Gole: The object of all these three amendments is practically common. The underlying idea is this. We have no objection to the passing of any orders prohibiting the import or export of any commodity but we have an objection to the use of permits for import or export. We have already passed the Foreign Exchange Bill which is now on the Statute Book. Under the Foreign Exchange Act, the Government as well as the Reserve Bank have got powers to set apart foreign exchange for the purchase of any commodity and the Reserve Bank will be asked from time to time as to what foreign exchange is necessary for the purchase of a particular commodity to be imported. If that step is taken, the only thing Government will have to do under the orders to be passed under sub-clause (1) would be to ask the Reserve Bank to set apart a particular foreign exchange for the import of these goods and those persons who want to import will have to apply to the Reserve Bank or a recognised dealer as defined in the Foreign Exchange Act who deals in foreign exchange. Therefore when the foreign exchange for the import of a certain commodity has been determined by an order from this Government, ordering the Reserve Bank to set aside a particular exchange for the import of certain goods, that will suffice for the purpose after issuing orders under sub-clause (1) of clause 3. The question then arises whether any permit is necessary. If you issue an order restricting the import of a certain commodity to a certain extent that order may be communicated to the Reserve Bank which may be asked to set apart a particular foreign exchange required for the import of that particular commodity. As soon as this is done, all the importers will have to apply to the Reserve Bank for the necessary exchange that would be required for bringing that commodity. If this practice is resorted to under this Act further permits would not be necessary. This is one way in which permits could be avoided.

There is another way. Applications may be called from those wishing to import any commodity as soon as the Government passes a restrictive order that only so much and not more would be allowed to be imported. Then applications

[Mr. P. B. Gole.] should be called from those persons who want to deal in that article and they should also be asked to deposit at least 30 to 40 per cent of the price in cash along with the application so that those who are genuine dealers and who have been dealing in those commodities would only apply and after that as soon as these applications are received with the deposits, then you can decide. Supposing the applicants are more, every applicant would be given a quota proportionate to the restricted goods and in this way the necessity for issuing permits could be avoided. The underlying idea of the amendment is this. These permits will be issued and as has been referred to by my friend Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad, all sorts of corruption will come into existence in connection with the issue of permits. It may appear to be a sweeping remark to say that everybody is corrupt. I do not say that the world consists of only corrupt people but I do maintain that this is a temptation and it is very difficult to overcome temptation. Let us not leave any scope for temptation. I am suggesting two methods but if the Honourable the Commerce Member can think of any other method except of course the granting of permits for carrying out this order for restriction or prohibition I have no objection.

So far as prohibition is concerned, there is no question of issuing permits, because as soon as you prohibit the import of any commodity, no question of permits will arise. If you want to restrict it to a particular quantity, then the question of permits will come in and in that case instead of issuing permits I have only suggested two methods. If the Honourable the Commerce Member thinks of any other method, I have no objection. In connection with all controlled articles, this system of permits is in vogue and this has caused so much discontent among the public. So the issue of permits should be avoided and I have suggested methods by which the order can be carried out without issuing permits. I have already suggested two methods and I do oppose the granting of any sort of permits. Therefore a specific provision should be made in the Act that these permits should not be granted. Therefore I have moved my amendment.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: The sole object of bringing in this amendment was to enable the Government to keep aloof from any charge of corruption among their officials and keep aloof from either directly or indirectly encouraging vested interests. Some amount of corruption there is. There is absolutely no doubt about that. It seems to be generally agreed in this House. It is not my purpose to investigate who is guilty of corruption. I do not want to make any sweeping remark against any class of officials. When I can show the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill that there is a way by which the object of this Bill can be achieved and at the same time the Government may be immune from any suggestion of encouraging vested interests and corruption, why should not Government accept that suggestion which has been embodied also in the amendment of my friend Mr. Jhunjhunwala. So I humbly commend my amendment for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Sir, the object of my amendment, as I stated this morning, is that this control is bound to lead to corruption and unless something is in the body of the Act itself by which this control is to be administered, the corruption will continue. The object of the Bill is the continuance of the control on imports and exports. But, instead of continuing the restriction of exports and imports, there will be the continuation of corruption if some sort of proviso is not added in the Act itself by which the Government will not be free to issue permits to whomsoever they liked or to impose certain restrictions on any commodities. They just liked whenever a particular officer wants to import any particular goods, he issues a permit for them though it may not be in the interests of the country to import that particular kind of commodity. Licences

have been given to those from whom they get something. In this way, this system of licences has led to corruption and black-marketing in the country. So, I have given notice of the amendment that in disposing of applications and issuing permits under this order certain principles should be observed. Government should invite applications from those who want to export or import a particular commodity and in disposing of these applications they should bear in mind that 75 per cent of them should be given to established shippers and 25 per cent. to others. This was suggested by the Honourable Member himself while he discussed this matter in the Select Committee. I have no objection even if all the 100 per cent is distributed to all the applicants, but it was pointed out by the Honourable the Commerce Member himself that it will be more expedient to give 75 per cent. to those who are already in the trade and so I have put in this proviso. In working out this thing so many difficulties have been pointed out and it has been said that there will be so many bogus applicants. To avoid all that, rules might be framed that only those applicants will be considered who deposit at least 30 or 40 per cent. of the price of things which they want to import and that money shall not be refunded until they have opened a letter of credit and fixed up the exchange. In that way, we shall avoid applications from bogus people and there will not be many applications. If the Government wants that there should not be any corruption, they should not be anxious to have an unrestricted power to themselves. Their power should be restricted by some proviso in the Act and this is one of the provisos that I suggest. Even if there is some difficulty in working up any suggestion, that should be met and attempt made to solve it rather than follow the policy of drift to corruption.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Sir, if the Honourable the Commerce Member accepts Mr. Jhunjhunwala's amendment, it will simplify the matter because there will then be no question of any corruption getting into anywhere in the Department or in the offices. If he grants to the established shippers 75 per cent *pro rata* and 25 per cent. to those who apply henceforth, the matter will be so simplified that there will be no loophole left for corruption. If this amendment is accepted, then there will be no need to move my amendment.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I cannot accept this amendment.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural). Mr President, Sir. In the time of the predecessor of our present Commerce Member, I had occasion to bring to the attention of the House the monopoly that seemed to exist, for instance, in the import of brass sheets. I am personally against all monopolies in such matters. Then, it transpired that in the whole of the country there were only three persons who were authorised to import brass sheets with the result that these three persons made tons of money and all other legitimate importers of brass sheets were simply shut out. Not only that, these importers had their retail shops at various places like Moradabad, Benares, and Mirzapur, the three places in my province that carry on a great deal of trade in brass ware. And they used to take care that only their representatives—their friends and their relatives—got the licences for retail sale.

I am not worried about the formula that may ultimately be adopted by the House, but I should certainly beg the Honourable the Commerce Member to put a stop to the possibility of such a monopoly being created under this Act. If the Honourable Member could give us an assurance that that sort of monopoly will be broken, I should have no objection to support any measure that he may bring before the House, for I am willing to concede that there should be some sort of control in the matter of imports and exports in the interest of the country at large. During the last few years—and they were dark years in all conscience—through which we have passed in our country suffering from all the effects of war without joining it formally, all sorts of monopolies were created.

Though it may be regarded as irrelevant, I may give it only as an example. In Benares only three persons—I do not know why the sacred figure of three

[Shri Sri Prakasa.]

comes up so often—had and still have a monopoly of importing cloth in the town and district of Benares consisting of 12 lakhs of people. All the initial profit on all the cloth that is imported into the town and district of Benares goes to just these three people. The curious thing is that this monopoly cannot be broken. I do not know what the reasons are, but whenever we approach Government to break this monopoly and to allow other folks also to come into the trade, they say that as they have had no complaints against these persons who have been carrying on the work in the past and so they prefer to allow them to carry it on in the future also. I feel that the Honourable Member should take some steps in order that such vested interests may not be created and that other folks may also have a chance of joining particular trades and sharing the profits.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Mr. President, the general feeling of the House is well ventilated and there is one point which has been brought out with greater emphasis and clarity. It is that, however updatable the system of control may be, it is accepted for the time being. At the same time, every one of us is anxious to see that it is worked with the least possible corruption. We know that corruption has its root in human mind and, while discussing this question with some of my friends in the lobby, a wit remarked that corruption and prostitution are as old as the hills, but we must do our level best to remove both. Here we are concerned for the time being with the removal of corruption. All the three amendments that have been moved in the House have only one object. Now, so far as the amendments of my Honourable friends Mr. Gole and Mr. Rohini Kurni Chaudhuri are concerned they will virtually shift the field of corruption from the Commerce Department to the precincts of the Reserve Bank. Unless both of them assure me that those who man the Reserve Bank are absolutely honest or at least relatively honest, the change will not be a matter for congratulation. Anyway, Sir, there is another danger in removing this thing from the sphere of the Commerce Member and conferring it on the Reserve Bank. If applications are invited, it is just possible that what we are trying to avoid namely vested interests or monopolistic interests, they will exactly come out. For there are people in this country who have enough money and they will

ask for the entire quota to be allotted to them with the result that the Bank instead of going into the business of allotting it *pro rata* or province-wise or industry-wise is more likely to give it to one man. Then the position will be exactly what we never contemplated or what we never wanted. Therefore something that seems to be somewhat workable arrangement under the present circumstances seems to be that embodied in the amendment moved by Mr. Jhunjhunwala. I agree with Shri Sri Prakasa that people have practically monopolised some trades in certain areas of this country, people who had nothing to do with cloth, suddenly blossomed into wholesale dealers in cloth and people who had nothing to do with building materials suddenly became Government contractors for construction of large buildings and in this way became great millionaires. All that we know was due to circumstances prevalent while the war was on. Now that war is over, something better should be substituted but even then it some expert knowledge is necessary it should be provided for. I do not think my Honourable friend Mr. Jhunjhunwala is very keen on having this proportion of 75 per cent. and 25 per cent.

Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Not at all.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: His idea seems to be that at least there must be some field, some opening to some trades for some new entrants who come into the business. Otherwise it becomes the monopoly of those who are already there and who will continue to be there at least for the period of three years and those who are ambitious and who want some openings in new lines, will be barred. Such conditions should not be created as a result of this legislation. I therefore request the Honourable the Commerce Member to consider whether he would

not like to accept the principle underlying the amendment of Mr. Jhunjhunwala. As regards the actual working whether those who are new in the field should be given *pro rata* or in certain circumstances there should be a variation, because I can well imagine contingencies in which *pro rata* distribution would be ridiculous all these can be settled later on, once the principle is accepted. I would like the Honourable the Commerce Member to assure this House that he is with us so far as the elimination of the element of corruption in any department and particularly in this department because the Commerce Department is now under discussion, is desirable and that he accepts this principle and that he will by framing the necessary rules see that corruption is reduced to the minimum.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I said at the consideration stage that I am opposed to controls altogether. But the House appears now to accept the principle of controls because the House has now taken up the consideration stage of the Bill. It seems that the House is in favour of controls and that controls may continue for some time.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

But in case control is to continue, then I am strongly of opinion that any restrictions will not be for the benefit of the people. The moment you apply restrictions, then somebody will come forward. I may come forward and propose why quota should not be fixed for each province, why not for every community, why not for those persons who never entered into the business. Because after all they are advocating the cause of those who have been in the business. I tell those who have been in the business, you have made quite a lot of money during the war by those monopolies, let other people now come forward and have then quota so that those who have already made plenty of money during the war should not be given any further chance to monopolise trade. Give a chance to others also. The House seems to have swallowed the unpleasant thing of having controls. Then let no restrictions be placed on the powers of Government. The Government alone should be made responsible for administering these unpleasant controls. I will not accept any of these amendments. I would rather like to shift the whole responsibility on to the shoulders of Government and make them do all these unpleasant things. I do not like to put down any restrictions whatsoever because the moment restrictions are placed, then these very restrictions might work favourably to some persons and very unpleasantly to other classes of people. So that whatever decision you may arrive will never be pleasant to all people alike. I realise you have put the Honourable the Commerce Member in a very difficult position. If only the House had adopted my suggestion and abolished all controls altogether, then the road would have been free. But in the interest of development of industries and various other things, the majority in the House is in favour of controls and I accept the majority verdict. Once you have taken this position, then no restriction whatsoever should be put and the entire responsibility for working these controls should rest on the Government. Anybody is at liberty to make suggestions but the final decision must always rest with the Government. Therefore I oppose all the three amendments.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division, Non-Muhammadan Rural). The discussion that has taken place till now sufficiently shows that Honourable Members of this House are very jealous of the powers that we are entrusting the executive with by means of this Bill, and I for one, would think that the Honourable the Commerce Member must have felt very much relieved at the very great interest taken by representatives of public opinion so far as they are in this House. It only shows that controls were very badly exercised during the war period and it is up to us and also it is up to Government to see that public opinion is absolutely satisfied on the point that controls are exercised in a very proper manner. If we say that controls are likely to be abused, it is not as if we are casting any reflection on the government of the day. We only

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar:] indicate the possibility of abuse. I certainly think that the Honourable Member is as much anxious as any one of us to see to it that these controls are properly exercised. The amendment before the House seeks definitely to limit and lay down in so many ways the way in which the shipping business should be distributed. It is as well that the Honourable Member would accept the principle underlying this. As the Honourable Member who moved this amendment, and made it perfectly clear that the suggestion came from the Honourable the Commerce Member, I hope by way of satisfaction he will accept the principle underlying this amendment. As Mr. Gadgil has suggested, I feel sure that the Honourable the Commerce Member will accept the principle underlying it, if not the exact terms in which it is put, but at least with a view to meeting such possible objections against the possibility of these controls being abused by the subordinate officials of the Government. I should like to make a constructive suggestion with a view to achieving the object underlying the principle of this amendment. It is this. So long as such emergency legislation is there, an advisory body of this legislature should be set up to advise the Government in the proper exercise of its function and from time to time advise the Government regarding the percentages to be fixed, to meet the requirements of applications, the qualifications of applicants, in fact every matter connected with the exercise of these emergency powers. I think, Sir, there would be sufficient scope for public opinion to exercise itself very effectively in so far as the working of these controls are concerned. Any other method would partly defeat the very purpose of this Bill which we have in view. Of course it might be said that there is already an advisory body in respect of the Commerce Department. But we shall not be content with it, in so far as we are vesting the executive with enormous powers and those powers are not necessarily exercised by persons responsible like the Commerce Member. Powers vested in Government have necessarily to be exercised by persons in a subordinate capacity. And with a view to prevent any possible abuse of any of the discretionary powers vested in Government and by delegation to officials, I suggest that the Honourable Member should make up his mind to satisfy public opinion and so long as this emergency legislation is in existence to set up a special advisory committee consisting of Members of the legislature to advise Government in the exercise of these controls. A measure like that would go a long way.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: That also may be a corrupt body.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Those who think like that may be excluded from this committee and those who have faith in themselves may find a place in it. And I think my Honourable friends may be pleased to withdraw their amendments after receiving definite and satisfactory assurances from the Honourable the Commerce Member.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Ohundrigar: Sir, as regards the amendments moved by my Honourable friends Mr. Gole and Mr. Chaudhuri my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil has given a proper reply that their suggestion made in these amendments will not solve the problem. The choice of the exporter or importer will only be shifted from the authorities in the Commerce Department to the Reserve Bank, with the additional disadvantage that any man of money who can spare a large amount of money will immediately go and purchase the exchange necessary for export or import and *bona fide* trades in the line for years will be completely eliminated. The result will therefore be that instead of improving matters the acceptance of that suggestion will, I am quite sure, definitely worsen matters and it may create a monopoly such as the one which was mentioned by my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa. I may mention that both the instances mentioned by him are not within the purview of my department. The control of brass sheets is under the Industries Department and the question relating to the distribution of cloth in Benares city is under the provincial Government. But so far as

the Commerce Department is concerned no monopoly has been or will be given to any party or any small number of two or three, as mentioned by him.

Coming then to the third amendment moved by Mr. Jhunjhunwala, as he has rightly pointed out, the idea underlying that amendment is the one which I discussed with him and some others. However, it cannot be laid down definitely in an Act of the legislature because in that case it will be impossible for the department to depart from that principle irrespective of any difficulties which may be encountered. For example, it would be impossible in that case to have even State trading in any particular item. The amendment placed before the House is so worded that it would not even allow Government to be the monopoly importers of certain commodities like wheat, rice, etc. Apart from that, there are several items on the import and export side where we cannot introduce the 75 per cent. established shippers and 25 per cent. new comers rule. As I have already mentioned, we are going to try as an experiment the introduction of the tender system about three items where we will have to depart from the principle of 75 and 25 per cent. There are other items where I tried to introduce this 25 per cent. rule for new comers but found it difficult to do so. In such cases instead of giving 25 per cent. share by one jump to new comers, we have to make a start by giving ten per cent. to new comers and in the next allotment of quotas, we may be in a position to raise the percentage from 10 to 25, as it is difficult to accommodate 25 per cent. new comers in some particular commodities. Therefore, as I say, we cannot lay down in an Act of the legislature a definite percentage of 75 and 25. But in all these cases, subject to suitable exceptions, as a general rule that is the principle which the Commerce Department intends to follow and which the Commerce Department themselves mentioned to the Honourable Members who have moved this amendment. As the Mover of the amendment himself admitted, the whole idea underlying the amendment has been taken by him from his discussion with me and, we are generally going to adopt that line subject to exceptions in particular cases where difficulties may be encountered.

That is regarding the percentage of 75 and 25, which is the first part of the amendment. The second part of the amendment says that it should be distributed *pro rata* between the various applicants. There also he has taken the idea entirely from his discussion with me. But there also I must mention that it will be impossible to lay it down as a definite rule in all cases. There may be a commodity wherein if you were to make a *pro rata* distribution you may be in a position to allot such a small quantity as one maund or two maunds or half a ton to each applicant and where it may be impossible to work it in practice as the export and import trade will be paralysed by such small quotas. But where the *pro rata* distribution does not lead to any absurdity of this character and where it can be worked in a normal way without any difficulties, it is the policy of the department to follow the *pro rata* rule. But where certain difficulties may be experienced we may have to depart from the *pro rata* rule because in that case it may be impossible to work out any scheme of imports or exports in a manner which would keep the trade in efficient hands. Therefore, so far as general principles are concerned, I am in sympathy with the third amendment but it is impossible for Government to accept the principle because no hard and fast rule can be laid down. I hope with this assurance the Honourable Members will withdraw the amendments.

Mr. Vadlal Lalubhai: Sir, I understand then that the *pro rata* distribution is not being followed till now because it is according to quotas for the years 1940-42 or thereabouts. If any merchant has done heavy business in those years he will be given a higher quota and one who has done less business will be given a smaller quota.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: If it is the idea that whether a man has exported 50,000 yards or 10 lakhs of yards they must have equal quotas, that principle can never be accepted by Government. It could only be accepted as *pro rata* according to business which was done by him.

Mr. F. B. Gole: Sir, in view of what has been said by the Honourable the Commerce Member I should like to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Sir, I also ask for leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Sir, I too beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal European) Sir, I move

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following proviso be added, namely:—
'Provided that the operation of a restriction on imports shall be limited to a period of six months where such restriction is made for no other purpose than the protection of indigenous industry.'"

This amendment that I have moved depends for its success whether the Government and this House accept the principle that the normal protection of indigenous industry is by tariff and not by prohibition. Perhaps it will be as well if I said that over again. Whether or not this amendment is acceptable depends, as I say, on whether Government accepts the principle that the normal protection of indigenous industry should be by tariff and not by prohibition. I think Sir, that that is a well-established international principle and has figured largely in various trade talks and so on in which this country has participated. But if there is any doubt on the question, I think that everybody would admit that it is bad for any industry to have no competition. As I said before, when speaking on this subject, there comes a time when if a product is not up to standard, it is definitely not bought and then your prohibition merely results in your losing import duties. Apart from that there is the necessity that there should be something against which the indigenous product should compete. If you wish import duties can be attached to the product up to any limit—up to three or four hundred per cent if you wish—although as previously remarked it would be doubtful in that case whether the product that you are protecting would be worth protecting. Whereas there is no question that a tariff can be adjusted to such a height as to make competition impossible, it is wrong in principle to prohibit the import of goods. That is the theory in defence of the principle—a principle to which I hold most strongly, that the protection of industry should be done by tariff and not by prohibition. I would like the Honourable the Commerce Member if he will be so kind to deal with that particular point. Does he or does he not agree that the proper protection of indigenous industry is by duty tariff?

To go on from that let me give you the practical reasons why I consider that this amendment should be moved and why this amendment should be accepted by the House. At the moment there are occurring a number of instances some of which I have brought to the notice of Government.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. No doubt it is permissible for the Honourable Members to talk in a low tone among themselves in the House, but they should not talk in such a manner that the House is disturbed. Their voices must be so low that other people in the House do not hear them.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: Thank you, Sir. That will save my voice a little bit. As I was saying I have brought to the notice of responsible departments, and the Commerce Member himself is perfectly well aware that circumstances are now arising in which certain parties claim to be able to manufacture a type of product which in fact they have never manufactured in practice or in bulk. The result of this is that by making applications to Government Departments they are enabled to get a prohibition on imports and until the people who utilize that product find out that it cannot be used for the purpose for which it was intended until that time arrives and until Government are convinced that

the product is not being manufactured in sufficient quantity, in suitable quality or at a reasonable price, the prohibition of that import continues. That is a bad thing for the industry of the country. It means that a person who requires a certain article, say a filterate of sorts, and finds subsequently that that article is not a filterate at all he has to go through all the process of getting this prohibition withdrawn before he can get the proper article.

Now all I have suggested in this amendment is that there should be a time-limit on the prohibition. All I suggest is that when a prohibition of this type is introduced—I acknowledge the Commerce Member's right to protect the industry of the country and if it is necessary he may indeed have to produce a temporary prohibition to protect that industry, I acknowledge his right to do that—but I suggest it would be right to impose a time-limit, a limit of six months. In that six months period there is every chance of putting this particular problem before the Tariff Board and getting the Tariff Board to place a suitable tariff on imported goods which will supply adequate protection for the indigenous industry. My reason for suggesting the Tariff Board is this. Various people approach various Departments of Government. They say "Stop such and such article from coming into this country because I can make it." The Department of Government may have an expert to consult or not but here you have two definite functions which may militate against one another. You might for instance have the Tariff Board taking one view on the protection of an article and the Government Department concerned taking a totally different view. That to my mind is a wrong situation. If you have a Tariff Board and you trust your Tariff Board, all questions of protection should be considered by that Tariff Board, and I deliberately suggest that this limitation of six months should be used for the purpose of putting this matter before the one authority in this country by whom consideration is proper. I suggest, Sir, to the Honourable the Commerce Member that my amendment will in no way interfere with the purposes that he has explained so carefully to us. If he adopts this amendment moreover he can, I think, do a lot to remove an abuse, an abuse which results from persuasion exercised on Government by a certain firm to the effect that it can manufacture something which it cannot in fact make at all. At least this will put a limit on the period of prohibition. I suggest that this is a most reasonable amendment and I hope that the Honourable the Commerce Member and the House will accept it.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved.

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill the following proviso be added, namely:

"Provided that the operation of a restriction on imports shall be limited to a period of six months where such restriction is made for an other purpose than the protection of indigenous industry."

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am very strongly opposed to the amendment which my Honourable friend has moved. This is not a new note coming from that direction. The Associated Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta when they met last December passed a Resolution on this subject and they said that controls should not be used for any purposes except those purposes for which they were intended to be used. I put it to the House when Government take a decision on any of these matters and all these matters are very closely allied, is it possible to say that control has been put in for this purpose alone. Control, as we in the course of discussion found this morning and as the Honourable the Commerce Member clearly explained, controls may have to be exercised for many purposes—for conserving the exchange, for preventing over-stocking of certain types of goods in this country, for restricting the amounts which may be brought in having regard to a long list of priorities and applications, and for health and for international conventions and for many other reasons. I put it to this House that very often the restriction in quantity is required for all these purposes but incidentally one of the considerations is whether the

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

quantity produced in this country in this particular article is adequate. I do not think, Sir, the Honourable the Commerce Member has put it forward nor is it really for his Department to go and encourage industry as such. I do not think he has put it forward that the controls are being used. Nor did my friend Mr. Lawson give this House any relevant illustrations of a case where controls were put forward merely for the purpose of encouraging industry as such. The controls have been exercised as the result in the balance of many considerations of which the effect of the industry on this country is one. Do we want the Government recklessly to permit the import of cheap stuff into this country regardless of the idea that goods are being produced in this country? May I give one illustration? Bicycle manufacture has taken place in this country and developed during the war. How important this little article is in the matter of security and transport when other forms of transport are not available will be readily understood. There are two concerns making bicycles in this country. They are both producing under very difficult conditions as their unit of production is small and some of their materials are very costly. They are at a disadvantage because the foreigner can have bicycles landed at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, or Karachi for the same price. These people have to send it from the place they produce it to all these centres. For the same transport, the foreigner can land it at any port but there are numerous conveniences including the well-known reputation of foreign well-established brands. Under these circumstances, as it suggested that the import of bicycles into this country should not be regulated and that it should be permitted *ad lib* and to any extent regardless of the idea that these two companies are manufacturing a certain number of bicycles? Sir, the only sensible manner there is that a licence should be given for an article like bicycles for which there is a large unsatisfied demand. Bicycles should be permitted to enter this country in large quantities because the consumer is wanting a large number. But as and when a situation developed in which the foreign bicycle would sell out the Indian bicycle, may be he would under-sell and sell cheaper and for this the case in point is so far as the bicycle itself is concerned, that the United Kingdom price for export was lower than the price for home consumption. This in all economic thought is called dumping, and if therefore any other country chose for his own purposes, for his own reasons, and for his own motives to send down goods to this country to the prejudice of a local producer and a local industry, is it suggested that the Government of this country should sit idle and should not exercise the powers we are giving to them under this law? No, Sir. My friend has been very clear about it. He would exercise these powers but for six months. May I know what would happen if the same conditions prevailed in the seventh month? Let the industry perish! My friends can say that but I challenge and I ask whether anyone in this House can accept a position when for lack of powers or for lack of willingness to exercise those powers *bona fide* production in this country was allowed to go to the wall. My friends on that side do not want manufactures in this country to take place. We had a case when the Posts and Telegraphs Department was being discussed.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel (Bengal European) It is entirely untrue!

Mr. Manu Subedar: We had the Posts and Telegraphs motion under discussion and my friend on this side said ...

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) Not on this side!

Mr. Manu Subedar: You are allying yourself too often with them! At that time he said it was not 'wise' for India—I noted the words very carefully—to have telephone interchange equipment manufactured in this country as it would be very costly. Here is another case. In this case I have been urging from

my place in this House that as the telephone is a security business, if there was another war we do not want to be without this equipment. We must make this equipment in this country no matter what it costs, and I do not think, as we have succeeded in other industries, why we should not succeed in this industry also for producing it at as cheap a price as elsewhere. This was our outlook but there is that India should not manufacture. They bring up the question of cost for the State when it suits them because if India did manufacture then some of the exports which India was accepting from the United Kingdom would fall. This is an outlook in which I say with all desire to be nice to them that our friends must learn that our loyalty is to our country first and that we cannot permit extraneous notions of this kind to be brought to this House under the plea that this is a very mild and very reasonable amendment. And what is behind these people's minds? For all other purposes the powers are given for such period as in Government's discretion is the proper period. But for industry they should not be used. I submit that any decision would depend entirely on the question of industrial protection itself and therefore as most of the decisions would be from mixed motives, most of the decisions would be dictated after an examination of all the numerous points which converted on this problem. I submit that this amendment is....

Mr. C. P. Lawson: No harm in it!

Mr. Manu Subedar: . . . misleading and I do not like the thought behind this amendment on the part of our friends. Why should not the power to protect industries be used? Let us take it that a decision is taken on this score merely for the protection of industry in this country. What is meant by the protection of this industry? My friend raised the point that if the Tariff Board recommended something! Now the Tariff Board, however wise and clever it might be, in a changing situation in the world, where new situations and new circumstances arise every day, cannot foresee every contingency. I therefore want to arm the Government of the country with powers which they can use without any hesitation and without any lapse of time and without any elaborate enquiry of the kind which my friend wants to interpose before the Government can act. Therefore I say that the thought which motivates this is partly alien and not entirely Indian and that the less such thoughts intrude in this Legislature the better. May I warn my friends that we are more than conscious that their presence in this House is an anomaly in itself.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: Is it in order for the Honourable Member to say all this?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Very well, I will not emphasize that point.

Mr. Deputy President: Will the Honourable Member resume his seat? As far as the Constitution lies, the presence of Mr. Lawson and his party is as under the Constitution. Whether this Constitution will remain or not is another matter. But as long he is in his right in this House, these remarks are not proper.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I had no intention to question the propriety of their presence in this House under the present Constitution. I was questioning the propriety of the Constitution itself, because in every other country in the world do I find that only those who are citizens of the country are entitled to vote or be members of the legislature. In the white man's country, the Indian is not even given the right of franchise and vote.

Mr. Deputy President: That is a matter of reciprocity. That has nothing to do with the Bill.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I will drop the point. I will only say that the thought which may have actuated my honourable friend in bringing in this is a direct pointer to Government not to use their powers for the protection of industry.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: That is not what I said. Sir, I merely suggested the use of those powers by the normal method, which is through the Tariff Board. I never suggested that the industry should not be protected. The Honourable Member is putting words into my mouth which I never used.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am very glad to hear the explanation but the method of tariff protection involves several months to intervene on an elaborate enquiry which it is not possible in all cases. In any case why should not the Government have the power to restrict either the quantity or the quality of a particular sort of goods which shall enter this country or the manner in which after their entry they shall be dealt with in such a manner so that while the consumers and users of articles buy what they want, those who are producing may not be put to an unequal competition which they cannot meet with the result that they would be thrown to the wall. Government have used this method I think in rare cases. I do not think anybody can say that Government have abused powers in this direction or that they have used it in hundreds of cases or that it has become the normal method of encouraging industry. I say that this power which has been used hitherto in a blameless and very discriminating manner should be given to this Government and should not be sought to be restricted in the manner in which my Honourable friend wishes to restrict. I oppose this amendment.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I am sorry that my friend Mr. Manu Subedar has entirely misunderstood the object of this amendment. I said in the very beginning and I will say again just now that we are all in favour of protection of our industries. That is a point on which there is no difference of opinion, whether it is the European Group, this party or any other party. We all want that our industries should be protected but in what manner it should be protected is the issue. Whether it should be protected by means of protective duties or by the restriction of imports and licences— that is the issue raised by the amendment of Mr. Lawson. If we adopt the second method of restricting imports from outside, my friend when he is in a different mood will say, "Why should it be done— how are the sterling balances to be paid. The sterling balances will only be paid by means of import of commodities and if the import of commodities is restricted the payment of our sterling balances will be restricted." We should not mix the two things up. The question is whether the protection of industries can most effectively be obtained by the protective duties as we have been doing so far. These protective duties, as I said, may be levied in the manner which the Fiscal Commission has recommended, in the absence of any other recommendations by means of the Tariff Board. We have been pressing from this side that there should be one permanent Tariff Board which will examine all those articles and then levy the protective duties. It is not necessary that they should be protected by restricting import altogether. That is really the object.

The other point is that we must make a distinction between import and export. In the case of imports you can stop it by protective duties. In the case of exports the method will be by prohibitive order that such and such a thing should not be exported at all. In case they find enormous differences in prices between India and outside countries, the Government alone should take the responsibility and export the articles. The less we have recourse to the licensing system the better. But we have accepted at the consideration stage that these licences should be retained that control should be maintained. Accepting this principle, unanimously, because there was no division, the responsibility of maintaining it must rest with the Government. Somebody suggested the Reserve Bank in this connection and it was rightly pointed out that the Reserve Bank is not the proper authority. One difficulty which my Honourable friend Mr. Gole has forgotten is that we cannot criticise the action of the

Reserve Bank in this House but we can criticise the action of the Government. We cannot put the responsibility on an alien authority whom we cannot criticise on the floor of this House. Once you accept the principle of the Bill, put the entire responsibility on the Government to exercise it in a way they think best. I think it is very desirable that we should consider this fact, that if the Tariff Board has been established and if the system of protective duties is fully organised, it may be considered whether we must have these protective duties and not restrictions, because that will raise the price of the article controlled.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *com* Oussa Muhannadan): Sir, I had no desire to take part in the debate but for the remarks which have just been made by my Honourable friend Mr. Subedar. His anxiety to industrialise this country is so strong that on every occasion this is common plea made by him for obstructing every sort of legislation in this country. I cannot imagine why he thinks that legislation should always be done at the cost of the 400 million consumers of this country and also at the cost of the producers by restricting the raw materials export and also by restricting the consumers goods imports. Mr. Lawson's amendment is just an innocent one. The Government is given definite powers to see whether it does interfere with the general economic condition of India.

Mr. Mann Subedar referred to the production of cycles by two industrialists in India but he abstained from saying to the House the difference in the price which the consumer has to pay here and the consumer will have to pay in the event of imported cycles from abroad. There should only be a reasonable limit for such sacrifices by the 400 million people of this country. If our industrialists cannot produce consumers goods at world parity prices in the beginning, they can certainly be given protection for a certain time through tariff rates as my Honourable friend Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad pointed out but they cannot be protected for all times at the cost of the consumer. I would only say that they should not exist always through a contribution by 400 million people of this country in one form or other. For certain industries the raw materials export from India are being restricted. For instance, take the question of raw hides and skins. Hides export is restricted so that the tanning industry of this country may develop. Although for a certain quality of raw hide Turkey and other continental countries can pay Rs. 32 per 20 lbs. wet export has to be restricted so that Indian tanners may buy at Rs. 16 or nearly half the rate. Export has been restricted to an extent that the industry is unable to consume even at low rates the entire production, in the name of industrialization this should not have been done. This is something which should have a limit of time and should not be allowed to go on for an unlimited period and that the craze for industrialisation should not be made a plea at every occasion. Whenever we talk of any taxation in the Finance Bill the same plea is put forward "that industries will suffer, they will perish and will go away." Some members always say that industries will not develop in this country unless you put this restriction and that restriction. The most salient fact is not brought out before the House that is of what advantage it is to the general populace and to what portion of the inhabitants would take advantage of such a industrialisation? It may be that the *per capita* wealth on calculation may increase on paper but the comforts of the populace may shrink. Suppose in this country in a particular province, if there are ten industries whose 200 or 2,000 shares had built up a reserve or a capital of thousands of crores, the *per capita* wealth of that province might increase from Rs. 8 to Rs. 80 or even more. But our members forget that outside that 2,000 persons who are shareholders, all will remain as miserable as they were before, although the contribution is being made by whole populace in that area at sacrifice for allowing the industry to exist. All those profits and reserve of 10 crores or 100 crores is built up at the sacrifice

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

of millions of people in that area all of whom had to make equal contribution and sacrifice for this industrialization. We forget that we have to tell our industries that they have got to meet the world production position and the world competition on the parity of prices. They have got to show the same amount of intelligence as the other industrialists in the world have shown in competing on production. And for that we are prepared to give them the same amount of facility as any other country in the world has given to develop its own industry. We cannot allow ourselves to have an industrialisation in this country at the cost of consumers and producers for all times to come. I would certainly ask my honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar what kind of economics he wants to introduce into this country. If a few thousand people, or for the matter of that even a million of Indians can take advantage of industrialization, what about the rest of population? The miseries of the common man is not reduced at all if only a few thousand of men get engaged in industry. The Bombay plan envisaged that the zamindari system should be abolished. They thought the only proper method was to allow the capitalist to exist as industrialist, and all the other form of capitalism and acquisition of wealth should be sacrificed to the industrialist interests because they said "if you want to develop the sugar industry you want possession of land and hence abolish zamindari." What I want to impress on the House is this. I definitely agree with the amendment proposed by my friend Mr. Lawson. To attribute motives is something which I would not have expected from Mr. Manu Subedar. I think the Government ought to consider it seriously and accept it as it still remains within their powers to do what they like, but in taking decision they will have to look into the whole financial situation, as no restriction should be placed for the sake of industry only. With these few words I support the amendment.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) I think we have gone rather off the track. We are not discussing tariffs or the benefit of tariffs to a country or the handicaps of tariffs. That is a very big subject which has been discussed on the floor of this House on many occasions. This is no occasion to discuss the advantages or the disadvantages of tariff protection. What we are discussing here just now is whether by the control of imports it is intended by Government to protect any particular class of manufacture in this country. Well, Sir, I am certainly a protectionist. I am for protecting our industries and the object of protecting our industries is so well known that I need not go further into that question. But whether protecting a particular industry is for the benefit of the country or not can only be decided by the Tariff Board. The point now is does Government intend to protect any big or small industry by the instrumentality of this Act that will be passed? I do not think that is the position. I never heard up till now that Government would protect any industry by stopping the imports of any article. If the country wanted an article, if the country was starving for the article and if the Government stopped the import of that article arbitrarily under the sections of this Bill there would be an outcry in the country and people would immediately say 'we want this article, we do not get it, we are starving.' I do not think that is the object of this Bill at all. I do not think it was ever intended that it should be so used or has been so used or will be so used. I think the Honourable Member will confirm what I say. Certainly, if an article floods this country and importers suddenly bring into this country in large quantities an article which the country does not want, it is the duty of the Government to stop further imports. If exchange or currency is affected by imports it is the duty of Government to stop the imports. But as long as the country wants a particular article to be imported into the country for its own use this Act should not be used for preventing such articles being imported. If there is a question of protection, real question of protection, the Tariff Board is here to decide and Government will I am sure

follow the advice of the Tariff Board. But the point of principle raised by Mr. Lawson is: does Government intend to use this Act for the protection of industries? I do not think it was so intended, or that it will be so used in the future. Then there will be an outcry in the country. It will mean the stopping of the import of an article without proper investigation by the Tariff Board. Government should stop an article being imported into this country only if there is a flood of such an article in the country or if the exchange problem is such that it is against the interests of the country that the article should be imported into the country. Also on certain rare occasions if the import of an article for the time being hinders the interests of this country in any way Government should have the power in these dangerous times which are war times still of preventing the import of that article. I think the apprehension expressed by my friend Mr. Lawson may not be so well-founded as he imagines. There may have been a case or two where the import of an article may have been stopped under a wrong impression. But if the position is cleared by the Honourable Member as to the use of this Act in the future as it has been cleared in the past I do not think there should be any further controversy on this matter.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: Sir, I would not have risen to speak at this stage but for the outburst from my honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar who expressed himself as wishing to be very nice to us, but I think it was an extraordinary way of being nice. Well, Sir, I was very glad to hear the remarks made by the previous speaker who thought it was not the Government's intention to utilise the powers in this Bill for the purpose of protection. I would say if that is so then the amendment which has been moved by my friend Mr. Lawson is an amendment to which the House cannot possibly have any objection at all. In the second place, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir pointed out that the powers which are sought under this Bill are powers which are to last for three years. I do not myself profess to be a prophet but I think it is possible that during the period of three years there might be many changes. There again, therefore, I suggest that if the situation which the amendment contemplates is not thought likely to arise, there is no possible argument against incorporating this amendment in the Bill. Well, Sir, to pass on to some of the remarks which fell from my friend Mr. Manu Subedar. Like some other members of the House, he seems not to have listened to the speech which Mr. Lawson made in moving his amendment. Mr. Lawson made it abundantly clear that

5 P. M. we in no sense question the right of this country to protect its own industries

Mr. Deputy President: I think the Honourable Member would like to continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 19th March, 1947.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 19th March, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANISATION AND INDIA'S TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

1039. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the outcome of the International Trade Organization meeting in Paris in the month of November 1946?

(b) Are trade agreements to be made with each country separately, or, will a general charter regulate the relation of trade with all?

(c) Is a trade treaty contemplated or suggested between India and Australia, as the result of the trade missions bothways?

(d) Is a trade treaty between India and the United Kingdom under discussion and, if so, will it be on the lines of the International Trade Organization charter, or on independent lines, and will it be negotiated separately after the result of the Constituent Assembly is known?

(e) Are any modifications in trade relations with any country contemplated independently of the meeting in connection with the International Trade Organization in April?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Probably the Honourable Member is referring to the meeting of the Preparatory Committee of International Trade and Employment which was held in London during October-November 1946. If so, the answer is that the work of the Preparatory Committee has not yet been completed and will be continued at its second meeting to be held in Geneva in April 1947.

(b) It is contemplated that the tariff negotiations among the members of the Preparatory Committee will be multilateral both in scope and application. They will, however, be carried on in accordance with the general provisions of the draft Charter of the International Trade Organisation.

(c) and (d). India, United Kingdom and Australia are participating in the International Trade Conference, and should the Conference succeed, they would automatically become parties to the multilateral Trade Agreement. No other Trade Agreement or Treaty is contemplated at present.

(e) No; not at present.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether in regard to some provisional conclusions which may be reached in the London Conference and before the Geneva Conference starts, the Honourable Member will give this House an opportunity of knowing what has occurred and perhaps ascertain the views of this House with regard to Geneva?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: So far as the London Conference is concerned, India is not going to make any commitment whatsoever. The London Conference is only of an informal character to discuss what attitude should be taken up at the Geneva Conference. As there is going to be no commitment, the question of consulting this House does not arise.

+ This question was put in the second round.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that this multilateral agreement will be entirely binding on us as soon as it is agreed upon there, or is it liable to be considered by Government and placed before this House before Government actually give their sanction?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: When negotiations between two countries or several countries take place, it would not be possible to say that India does not commit itself to any agreement and wants it to be confirmed by this House. If every country were to adopt such an attitude, no conclusions can be reached and no agreement can be negotiated at a conference like this. The delegates who are to be sent to Geneva are given a brief by the Government of India and they have been advised to consult the Government of India from time to time as circumstances require, and not to make any commitments before the Government of India have fully examined the question.

Mr. Mann Subedar: In view of the fact that India's rather backward economic condition and the inflationary condition in which this country still is requires freedom of action in the international economic field may I know if Government have examined the proposition from that point of view and whether in the brief which the Government of India have prepared they have provided that the surrender of freedom to deal individually with countries either by way of barter or by way of special agreements will not be surrendered prematurely by this country?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Government have fully examined the question and are fully alive to the importance of the point raised by the Honourable Member, and the delegates have been given the necessary instructions.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Will the same procedure be followed here as was done in the case of the Ottawa Agreement which was placed before this House for ratification?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The matter will be considered after the agreement is reached.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then are we to understand that Government have already come to a decision in regard to the advisability of their not only taking part but also accepting the principle of multilateral trade agreements in preference to bilateral trade agreements?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No final decision has been reached. It will be decided after considering the advantages and disadvantages of the final picture which will be placed before us.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the fact that all trade agreements between India and other countries were ratified by this House may I know if the same practice will be followed in future?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I have said that the question will be considered as soon as an agreement is concluded.

APPOINTMENT OF TRADE COMMISSIONERS FROM THE MERCANTILE COMMUNITIES

1040. ***Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether the appointments of Trade Commissioners of this country in other countries are made from the mercantile communities of this country?

(b) Have the commercial institutions of this country been called upon to suggest names of suitable candidates for appointment as Trade Commissioners, their Assistants and staff?

(c) Do Government propose to give any training on commercial matters to the Trade Commissioners and their staff before their appointment in other countries?

1 Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(d) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing an Assistant or an Assistant Trade Commissioner, in every country where there is a Trade Commissioner, specially drawn from commercial communities or found qualified in commercial matters?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) to (d). It has so far been the practice to recruit Trade Commissioners from Government service as also from non-officials possessing business experience. Commercial institutions, however, are not called on to advise Government with regard to the selection of the latter, as such recruitment is made by the Federal Public Service Commission who call for applications through the Press from eligible candidates. It has also been the practice to give officers selected for appointment as Trade Commissioners preliminary training in the Commerce Department and in the office of the Director of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta. Facilities are also given to them to contact various Chambers of Commerce and trade organisations before they take up their duties abroad.

I may add, however, for the information of the Honourable Member that the entire question of the appointment of and the training to be imparted to Trade Commissioners is under active consideration. I may assure the Honourable Member that the points raised by him in this regard will be borne in mind during these discussions.

INDEPENDENT STATE FOR NAGAS

†1041. ***Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state whether Government are aware of an Orient Press of India message, dated 23rd December 1946, according to which Messrs. A. Z. Phizo and M. T. Sakhrle in an interview with the Special Correspondent of the *Asiad* stated that the Nagas stand for a separate independent state of their own?

(b) If so, have Government got any information to the effect that the Nagas want to remain separate from the rest of India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes

(b) Government are informed that the statement referred to has no particular importance and does not represent any substantial body of opinion.

EXPORT LICENCES TO BUSINESSMEN OF NOVA GOA TO EXPORT GUNNY BAGS TO PORTUGAL AND TO SOUTH AFRICA

†1042. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the A. P. I. message of the 24th December, 1946 that licences have been granted to businessmen of Nova Goa to export gunny bags to Portugal and Portuguese Africa and that from there these bags are likely to be shipped to South Africa;

(b) whether Government are aware that similar attempts to export gunny bags from Ceylon to South Africa have also succeeded; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Government of India to prevent such exports to South Africa?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a), (b) and (c). More than a week before the A.P.I. message referred to by the Honourable Member was published in the Press, the Government had been warned by His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Nova Goa of possible attempts by certain businessmen to export gunny bags through Goa to Portugal and Portuguese East Africa, for possible despatch to destinations in South Africa.

As regards re-exports from Ceylon and the various steps taken by Government to prevent supplies from reaching South Africa, necessary preventive steps were taken forthwith with satisfactory results

GOODWILL MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

†1043. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state when Government propose to send the Goodwill Mission to the Middle East to which he referred in his first Press Conference as Foreign Member?

(b) What will be the personnel of this Mission?

(c) Who will lead it?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c). It has not yet been possible to fix a date for the despatch of a Goodwill Mission to the Middle East, nor the composition of the Mission

LICENCES FOR EXPORT OF INDIAN COTTON.

†1044. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state how many licences for the export of Indian cotton have so far been given for the period of January—April, 1947?

(b) What is the quota of cotton export to various countries?

(c) In view of the cloth shortage in India, do Government propose to consider the advisability of producing more and more yarn in India itself?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) I lay a statement on the table indicating quantities of cotton licensed for export

(b) The system of destination quotas has been recently abolished, and hence there are now no specific quotas for any countries

(c) Steps have been taken to increase the production of yarn and cloth by endeavouring to arrange (1) working of three shifts in textile mills wherever possible, (2) working for nine hours a day in the Cotton Textile Mills instead of eight hours wherever possible on payment of overtime allowance to workers in mills where three shifts working is not possible, (3) increased supply of coal to textile mills, and (4) issue of import licences for Import of new machinery.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

Statement showing the quantities of raw cotton licenced upto 28th February 1947 against January — April 1947 quotas

Quantities are in bales

1 bale = 400 lb approx

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

2135

Name of Group	Karachi				Bombay				Calcutta				Total			
	Short Staple	Medium Staple	Long Staple	Total	Short Staple	Medium Staple	Long Staple	Total	Short Staple	Medium Staple	Long Staple	Total	Short Staple	Medium Staple	Long Staple	Total
United Kingdom	18 610	7 440	11 110	37 220	45			2 457					21 067	7 440	11 170	39 677
European countries other than U. K. and Germany	17 091	6 849	10 219	34 169	7 478	2 211	1 835	11 287					24 566	9 100	11 767	45 456
U. S. A.	11 069			11 069	1 250			1 250					13 219			13 219
China	7 312	2 021	4 388	14 021	1 466	686		2 052					8 778	3 507	4,388	16 673
Other countries	3 272	10	15	3 297	495	250		746					3 767	280	15	4,042
Total	58 254	17 200	25 822	101 276	13 146	3 107	1 835	17 791					71 400	20 807	27 360	119 067

**ORDURE REGARDING THE IMPORT OF CAPITAL GOODS FROM STERLING AND
NON-STERLING AREAS**

†1045. ***Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Government in the first instance consider applications only for the import of capital goods from the sterling area and that in the case of applications for imports from non-sterling area countries, Government require the importers first to ascertain that the goods to be imported are not available in the sterling area?

(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of stopping this procedure which puts Indian industrialists to extra expenditure?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) No Sir The Honourable Member's attention is invited in this connection to the Press note issued by Government on the subject on the 14th September 1946, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(b) Does not arise

PRESS NOTE

Imports of Capital Goods from Non-Sterling Area Countries

Representations have recently been received by the Government of India that machinery manufacturers in the United Kingdom quote considerably higher prices and longer periods of delivery for capital goods as compared with the terms offered by manufacturers in hard currency countries. These representations have been considered by the Government of India and with a view to enable industrialists to obtain their requirements from the countries which offer relatively more favourable terms, it has been decided to allow importation of capital goods and machinery from hard currency countries if it is proved that the U. K. prices for a comparable plant of equal performance is appreciably higher and/or the period of delivery is longer.

With a view to further assist industrialists, it has been decided that the responsibility for ascertaining non-availability of capital goods in the sterling area should henceforth be assumed by Government and steps are being taken to dispose of applications as expeditiously as possible.

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT;
New Delhi, September 14, 1946

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO AFGHAN SARDARS DETAINED IN POONA

†1046. ***Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth** (on behalf of Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer): (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please refer to reply to part (b) of starred question No. 410 asked on the 12th November, 1946 regarding the detention of Afghan Sardars in Poona and to state whether a reply to the reference regarding the three Chief Afghan Sardars, viz. Sardar Inayat Ullah Khan, Sardar Hafiz Ullah Khan, Sardar Habib Ullah Khan and Syed Mohamed Yakub Khan, ex-Brigadier, Afghan Army, detained in Poona has now been received from the Government of Afghanistan?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, have Government reviewed the case of the Afghan Sardars for better financial support in the light of the reply received from the Afghan Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes The Afghan Government have replied that they are unwilling to permit these Sardars to return to Afghanistan and have reiterated their objection to their being permitted anywhere near the Indo-Afghan border.

(b) Certain proposals for increasing the allowances are under consideration and a decision may be expected in the near future.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

‡ This question was put in the second round.

DETENTION NOTICES BY POLICE ON AFGHAN SARDARS IN POONA

†1047. **Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth** (on behalf of Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer): (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to refer to reply to starred question No. 410 asked on the 12th November, 1946 and state whether Government are aware that the Four Afghan Sardars detained in Poona are still being summoned to the office of the District Superintendent of Police at Poona, and are being required to sign certain detention notices issued for service on them by the Political Department of the Government of India?

(b) Are Government aware that on the 22nd December, 1946 the Afghan Sardars were summoned by the District Superintendent of Police, Poona and required to sign certain notices in token of their acceptance of the position of detenus and that they refused to accept the position, which those notices purported to enforce on them?

(c) What is the cost of the Police Staff that is being maintained in Poona for keeping watch on the movements of the Afghan Sardars?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member appears to have been misinformed. No detention notices have been issued against these Sardars. What have been issued against them are orders under Section 86 of the Frontier Crimes Regulation prohibiting their entry into the North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan. These orders were issued on the instructions, not of the Political Department, but of the External Affairs Department by the Political Agent, Khvber, who is legally empowered to issue such orders under this Regulation.

(c) No special Police Staff is maintained for this purpose.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With reference to the reply to part (a) are these orders issued because the Afghan Government want them to be issued or are they issued by Government on their own initiative?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: All orders issued in regard to their entry into the frontier areas are issued because the Afghan Government do not want them to go there.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With regard to these details that they are often called to the police station and asked to sign different papers, will the Honourable Member see that they are not unnecessarily harassed and these orders are relaxed?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Most certainly we do not wish any of them to be harassed at all. To some extent the local police are sometimes overzealous in the matter, but there is no question of having any supervision over them. The only point is that they are not allowed to go to the frontier areas; otherwise they are free.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With regard to the details given in the question that they have to go to the police station and sign certain papers, cannot the Honourable Member see that these orders are relaxed in their case?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir certainly.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: May I know if the Government of India are under any international obligation to keep them within India so long as the Afghan Government want?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir, if they want to go outside India they can go now. The only thing is that they should not go to the frontier areas. That too is not exactly a legal obligation but an obligation to a friendly Government.

†This question was put in the second round.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Do I understand that the Government of India are prepared to grant them passport facilities if they desire to go outside this country?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir; if they desire to go out of India they can certainly do so.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, May I ask my questions now† in the regular round?

Mr. President: There is no question of a regular round. The Honourable Member was absent when his questions were called. With regard to Mr. Jaffer's questions they came in the second round because of the authority given to Mr. Ishaq Seth.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Sir, the previous practice has been that once you exhaust the list those Members who were absent when they were first called are allowed to put their questions, provided it is within the question hour.

Mr. President: I take it from the Honourable Member that that has been the practice. But I should like to consider this matter. There is plenty of time yet for the question hour to be exhausted and the Honourable Member may put his questions, but I should not like this to be treated as a precedent.

PETROLEUM ADVISER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

†1048. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state who is the Petroleum Adviser to the Government of India?

(b) What is his emolument and is he still connected with any company, and if so, with which company?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Mr D D H Thomas, Delhi Branch Manager of Messrs. Burmah-Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Company (India) Limited, is the Petroleum Adviser to the Government of India.

(b) He acts in an honorary capacity but receives (i) a monthly office allowance of Rs 35 only, (ii) While on tour on Government work, travelling allowance as admissible to a first grade Government servant under the Government of India and a daily allowance of Rs 25 only.

As stated above, Mr D D H Thomas is connected with Burmah-Shell and is in their employment.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is he making periodical reports or is he giving conversational advice to Government?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Both oral and written advice, from time to time, as occasion might demand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell this House the nature of the advice, the nature of the topics with which he deals, and the necessity for continuing the arrangement which was purely war time?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: This arrangement was made as a wartime measure when the advice of the Petroleum Adviser was frequently sought on technical points regarding the supply of oil, particularly to the Armed Forces. In respect of commercial aspects of the problem, it was found useful by the Government to consult the Adviser rather than individual oil companies. The Transport Department also consult this gentleman in respect of petrol rationing, and the Chief Inspector of Explosives in respect of the operation of the Petroleum Act and Rules. Although his functions have been considerably reduced since the termination of the war, he is still rendering very useful service in such matters as negotiations over the sale of surplus Government oil equipment between the Director General of Disposals and the Oil Companies. For the purpose of

† These questions and answers have, however, been printed serially in these Debates.

‡ This question was put in the second round.

speeding up disposals, it is convenient to work through the Adviser who co-ordinates offers made by individual companies. As regards the procurement of petrol and petroleum products, we have not yet gone back to peace conditions since 90 per cent. of our requirements are still provided by His Majesty's Government and supplied through the Lawson Committee whose representative in Delhi is our Petroleum Adviser. The present sanction to the post is up to the end of February 1947 and the question whether the tenure should be extended for a further period is now under consideration.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Why is it not possible for the Government to get the services of one who is not connected with any company?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The difficulty is to find a man who is not connected with companies and yet is in a position to give expert advice on oil and petroleum.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it not possible that this particular company by virtue of the fact that their officer is also Adviser to the Government of India gets special advantages from the Government?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: No, Sir. In actual practice all the oil companies are working together jointly through the Lawson Committee, and it is the Lawson Committee which really advises Government through this Adviser.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Do I understand that the Government of India have no such secrets as should not be divulged to the oil companies?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Petroleum only came to my department about a month ago, and I have not yet discovered whether there are any secrets which should not be divulged to oil companies.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have the Government examined the question that when an official of the oil company is their Adviser particularly with regard to disposals in which his own company may be interested in purchasing whether the position will be altogether suitable? Have Government examined this question, and if not will they consider all aspects of the question now that we are in peace time?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I will bring my Honourable friend's question to the notice of the Industries and Supplies Department, because they are dealing with disposals.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who are the members of this Lawson Committee of which this gentleman is the Secretary?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: All the oil companies in India have a representative on the Lawson Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India also any representatives on it, and if so is any one of them an Indian?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: There is no representative of the Government of India on the Lawson Committee. It is entirely a non-official body composed of representatives of all the oil companies in India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Am I right in understanding that this committee is a European combine, and there is no Indian at all on it?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I could not say if there is an Indian on it, but they are representatives of oil companies in India. Presumably they are all Europeans; but I am not prepared to say definitely if there is any Indian.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that Advisers in all departments belong to the trade and that it is not only the case with Petroleum? An adviser should be a person who knows his subject.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I am not aware whether advisers in other departments are connected with trade, or not.

EXPANSION OF MERCANTILE SHIPPING OF INDIA

†1049. ***Captain Syed Abid Hussain**: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India propose adopting a policy of rapid expansion in the Mercantile Shipping of India;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the question of giving greater facilities and expanding the scope of institutions for training officers to meet the increasing demands of the Indian Mercantile Marines; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up a separate institution like the I M M T S "Dufferin" in Karachi or Calcutta; if not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Government of India are shortly appointing a Committee to go into the question of expansion of training facilities for cadets for the Mercantile Marine in India. Government would keep this suggestion in mind when considering the report of that Committee.

COMMUNAL PROPORTION IN SELECTING CADETS FOR *I. M. M T. S. Dufferin*.

†1050. ***Captain Syed Abid Hussain**: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state

(a) the total number of Cadets that have passed out of I.M.M.T.S. "Dufferin" since its inception giving the number from each community separately; and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to fix a communal proportion in selecting Cadets in future. if not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) The information asked for, up to the end of 1946, is as follows: Hindus 325, Christians 229, Muslims 65, Parsees 45, Sikhs 34, Budhists 17, Jews 8.

(b) Government have the matter under consideration

MUSLIMS AS TRADE COMMISSIONERS

†1051. ***Captain Syed Abid Hussain**: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the total number of Trade Commissioners ever appointed by the Government of India?

(b) Out of these, how many Muslims have ever been appointed?

(c) How many Muslims are holding appointments at the moment, and in what countries?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Twenty

(b) Four

(c) Two, one in Egypt and the other in Iran.

FORWARD DELIVERY TRANSACTIONS IN COTTON AND KAPPAS

1052. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava**: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the Commerce Department Notification No. P. and S. C. 56/48, dated the 19th May, 1943, prohibiting the forward delivery transactions in cotton and kappas, is in force still, or whether it has been modified or cancelled;

(b) the places in British India where the forward delivery transactions in cotton and kappas are going on at present;

(c) the places in British India where no such restrictions exist and the reasons for not enforcing the restrictions in such places; and

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

(d) in what other commodities speculative transactions are allowed in British India and for what reasons?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: This question concerns the Department of Industries and Supplies. It has accordingly been transferred to them, and will be answered by the Honourable Member in charge of that Department.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of forwarding these questions to the proper Department at an earlier stage and thus save the time of the House?

Mr. President: This has been explained more than once.

LABOUR WELFARE OFFICERS IN ORDNANCE ESTABLISHMENTS

1053. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Labour Welfare Officers in Ordnance establishments do not work for the promotion of Labour Welfare being responsible to the Officers-in-charge of those establishments; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of posting trained officers, responsible directly to the Labour Department, to look after the 'Labour Welfare' in the ordnance establishments?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The question should have been addressed to Defence Department. I have, however, made enquiries and understand that no complaints of the kind have been received by them.

(b) The possibility of establishing a central pool of trained Labour Officers under the Labour Department whose services will be made available for employment as such in Central Government undertakings is under consideration.

SENIOR INDIAN OFFICERS IN THE MILITIA AND SCOUT BATTALIONS IN THE N. W. F. PROVINCE

+1054. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state:

(a) the number of senior Indian Officers above the rank of Captain who are posted in the Militia and Scout battalions and similar other corps in the North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan,

(b) whether it is a fact that all the senior Indian Officers who were second-in-command and were fit to take over command of their battalions have been transferred elsewhere; and

(c) when it would be possible for Indian Officers to take over the command of their battalions?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) None at present.

(b) Only one Indian Officer who was second in command and fit to take over command was reverted to the Army having completed more than the normal tenure of secondment to Frontier Corps.

(c) Two Indian Officers of the rank of Major, including the one referred to in reply to part (b) above with previous experience of Frontier Corps would normally be considered to be senior enough to take over command when vacancies occur in approximately one year's time provided they could be made available by the Army. But the whole question of finding suitable Indian Officers for the army as well as the Frontier Corps has to be considered now in the new context that has arisen. It is at present under examination in consultations with the army authorities.

+Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

**UNFILTERED WATER SUPPLY IN 'A' TYPE QUARTERS IN TIBBIA COLLEGE
COMPOUND, KAROL BAGH, DELHI.**

1055. *Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state whether Government are aware that there is a Park in close proximity to the Tibbia College Compound, Karol Bagh, Delhi?

(b) Are Government aware that the Park area referred to in part (a) above is served by the unfiltered water supply system?

(c) Are Government aware that "A" type quarters located in the Tibbia College Compound, Karol Bagh, Delhi, are not served by the unfiltered water supply system?

(d) Are Government aware that the areas of "A" type quarters located in the Tibbia College Compound, Karol Bagh, Delhi, and that of the Park are separated only by a small road?

(e) In view of the fact that the Park area is in close proximity to the "A" type quarters located in the Tibbia College Compound, Karol Bagh, Delhi, do Government propose to extend the unfiltered water supply system from the Park area to that of the "A" type quarters in the Tibbia College Compound for growing vegetables? If not, why not?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) to (d). Yes.

(e) It is not possible to extend the unfiltered water supply system to these quarters at present owing to shortage of supply of unfiltered water and the expenditure involved.

Miss Maniben Kara: In view of the fact that there is only a very small road which separates the quarters, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of incurring that expenditure for the convenience of the employees of the Government of India?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The Government of India have every sympathy with the employees and would be only too pleased to provide amenities for them. The difficulty here is not merely the question of expenditure but the fact that the land on which these quarters stand does not belong to Government. It is a requisitioned property and may have to be returned at any moment. The quarters are not permanent, they are semi-permanent. And apart from the question of expenditure and all these difficulties which I have mentioned, there is great shortage of unfiltered water-supply in Delhi during summer and Government do not consider it possible to extend the unfiltered water-supply anywhere at present.

Miss Maniben Kara: Is the Honourable Member aware that there are five blocks in that area and each member of the block has to pay a flat rate of Rs. 4 for the water which he does not consume?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I do not know what is the rate for the filtered water-supply which is at present available; but I presume it is the usual rate which is charged by the Municipality for Delhi water-supply.

Miss Maniben Kara: Since there is a flat rate of Rs. 4 charged to the tenants, may I enquire if these tenants will be allowed to use the water for their necessary purposes? The tenants are not consuming water worth Rs. 4. Can they use it for necessary purposes?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: If they are paying for the water, I presume they are allowed to use it for their legitimate purposes. But every summer the Chief Commissioner issues a notification according to which filtered water-supply cannot be used for gardening or such other purposes.

Lala Deeshbandhu Gupta: In view of the fact that Karol Bagh area is fast developing on the lines of New Delhi, will Government state whether there is any scheme under consideration to improve the unfiltered water-supply of that area?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir; there is a scheme under consideration to increase the unfiltered water-supply; but there, again, we are up against various difficulties. The Government of the United Provinces have complained about the amount of water which we are taking out of the Jumna and the matter is under negotiation.

PROVISION OF COURTYARDS AND HEDGE FENCING IN 'A' TYPE QUARTERS IN TIBBIA COLLEGE COMPOUND, KAROL BAGH, DELHI

1056. *Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state whether Government are aware that there is ample open ground between the blocks of "A" type quarters located in the Tibbia College Compound, Karol Bagh, Delhi?

(b) Are Government aware that "A" type quarters located in the Tibbia College Compound, Karol Bagh, have no courtyards for sleeping purposes during the hot months of the year?

(c) Are Government aware that in the absence of any courtyard, the tenants, with the female members of their families, have during the summer season to sleep in the open ground in front of their quarters where there is no privacy?

(d) If so, do Government propose to allot a portion of open ground to each quarter and allow the tenants to provide hedge-fencing in front of their quarters at their own cost? If not, why not?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) It is understood that the occupants of the first floor sleep on the terraces while the occupants of the ground floor sleep in front of their quarters.

(d) Hedge-fencing is not possible as there is no unfiltered water supply for these quarters.

Miss Maniben Kara: The Honourable Member in his reply has admitted that the women folk in the house have to sleep in the night in the open. Will he consider the desirability of erecting a small wall in order to maintain the privacy of the family?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The matter will be considered, but it is difficult to ensure privacy by a small wall when these quarters are double storeyed and the first floor will necessarily overlook the ground floor.

Miss Maniben Kara: Does not the Honourable Member think that by having even some protection on the front of the road the family could be assured of some privacy from the public outside?

Mr. President: This would be a matter of argument.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will Government consider the desirability of putting temporary screens in order to have some privacy for the houses?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I am perfectly willing to have the matter examined. But it does not merely affect these quarters but affects all such quarters in Delhi, and the incurring extra expenditure on semi-permanent structures which may cease to be under our control within a short time, deserve very serious consideration.

EXPORT OF GROUNDNUT OIL AND KERNEL.

1057. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have decided to export groundnut oil and groundnut kernel and if so, (i) in what quantity, (ii) for what consideration, and (iii) to which countries?

(b) Are Government aware that in this country groundnut is also used as food and if so, what are the circumstances which lead or force Government to export it when the country itself is in need of it?

(c) What is the purchasing price of groundnut in this country and what is its selling price in the countries to which it is exported?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Yes.

(i) For the season beginning from November 1946 an export quota of 110,000 tons groundnut kernel and 76,000 tons oil has been fixed

(ii) These quantities are surplus to the requirements of the country

(iii) The question of allotment of quotas to various countries is under consideration in consultation with the International Emergency Food Council. It is, therefore, not possible to state to which countries quotas will be allotted.

(b) Yes. The reason for allowing export has already been given in the reply to part (a) (ii)

(c) In view of the recent decision of the Government removing internal control on oilseeds, it is not possible to say at what prices groundnut will be available, when exports actually take place, nor can the prevailing prices in the importing countries then be definitely foretold

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: How do Government know that groundnuts are not necessary for food in the country? On what basis have the Government come to this decision?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The Government have taken into consideration the quantities used in the country during the last several years, and on that basis they have made an estimate of the requirements of oil in the country. I may inform Honourable Members of the House, that this estimate is made after taking into consideration the larger quantity now required in view of the rise in the standard of living and we have provided for an increased consumption in the country accordingly in our estimates

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the difference in price per ton between the internal price in India and the price in the country of destination?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: These prices vary from country to country and from day to day and unless we know the countries, to which the surplus groundnut-seed and oil from this country will be exported, after allocation by the International Emergency Food Council, it will be difficult to give a comparison in prices

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Assuming they will be exported to a country where the prices are maximum, in order to get maximum profit, what is the maximum price decided for the country?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: So far as oil is concerned, today it is the seller's market. A report reached Government that the Argentine had sold groundnut oil to U K at nearly 400 per cent. of price prevailing in India. Much depends upon the requirements of the country and also the position of the country which purchases it. It is not therefore, possible to say with any accuracy what will be the prices which can be realised in a particular country

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the fact that profit is nearly 400 per cent., why should not Government send all these things direct so that the taxpayer might be benefitted?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The profit is not likely to be 400 per cent in all cases. That is the price dictated by the Argentine in the particular case. As I mentioned yesterday during the debate on the Import and Export Control Bill, Government have decided to introduce a system of tenders so that Government can get a share of the higher external price according to the market rate prevailing in the country where the oil is to be exported.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that groundnuts and groundnut oil are not used by the foreign powers for food only but for various commercial purposes, will Government examine whether this particular item cannot be freed from the control of the International Emergency Food Council and whether Government will examine the position whether in interchange for groundnuts and oil which are so much coveted in the world, they cannot get capital goods, like machinery, steel, cloth and paper which we are so much in need of?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It would be difficult to contend that oil is not an article of food, though it is used no doubt for other purposes also. The International Emergency Food Council is at present controlling oils. The Government will examine the question whether a representation can be made to the International Emergency Food Council to take out oil out of the purview of the allocations by the International Emergency Food Council.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: What are the countries to which groundnuts are being sent at present?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The names of countries will be determined by the International Emergency Food Council. An announcement is expected shortly.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Will the Honourable Member get the information from the International Emergency Food Council and communicate the same to this House?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: We will get the information as we will not be able to export without our getting the information. We are expecting the information in a few days time.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Can't he state the countries now?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I am not in a position to state them now, as the International Emergency Food Council has not yet determined the countries to which the export from India should take place. As soon as it is determined, the names of the countries will be announced.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Have not Government suggested the names to the International Emergency Food Council?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: We have made certain suggestions. We have suggested countries which were our buyers during the past few years.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Then without knowing the demand from the several countries, how is it that quantities have been fixed for export by Government?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The quantities for export have been fixed by Government after taking into consideration what is likely to be the surplus in this country. There is an insatiable demand from numerous countries and the question will be to whom among the several competing countries to allocate the little quantity which is available.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Was any excess discovered after full one year's consumption of groundnuts in this country?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It is difficult to collect statistics as to how much oil is left with either the consumers or the dealers after one year's consumption but we have reported our estimated supplies to the International Emergency Food Council after taking into consideration our estimated requirements.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: How did Government come to the conclusion that it was not necessary for food consumption in the country?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: According to the statistics of our consumption in the past.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SELECTION OF A EUROPEAN (SIR ROBERT HUTCHINGS) AS LEADER OF INDIAN DELEGATION TO INTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONFERENCE

Mr. Vadlal Lalubhai: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Delegation is being sent out to London to participate in the International Wheat Conference;

(b) whether it is a fact that Sir Robert Hutchings is the Leader of the said Delegation,

(c) whether, while selecting the personnel of the Delegation, the Food Department was consulted;

(d) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, why a European was chosen to lead the Delegation representing this country for work in the international sphere; and

(e) whether Government could not find any competent and suitable Indian to lead the Delegation?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) The Indian Delegation to the International Wheat Conference which opened on the 18th March is already in London.

(b) and (c) Yes

(d) and (e) As the proposals to be discussed at the Conference would have to be examined in the context of our requirements of food from abroad, it was essential that some one with intimate knowledge of the country's food position and having experience of importing foodgrains under existing conditions should lead the Indian Delegation.

Mr. Vadlal Lalubhai: May I know whether the Honourable Member considered any Indian for this purpose, and if so what are the names of those Indians who were considered?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No Indian with suitable knowledge and experience was found available

Mr. Vadlal Lalubhai: Is he aware of the fact that at the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the U N O Dr. Katju led the delegation and Sir S. V. Ramamurti was the other delegate? Did he consider any one of those two names?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: These names were considered. They had not the qualifications which are necessary here. It must be understood that at this International Wheat Conference, commitments are likely to be made as to the purchases to be made in future and the extent to which India should commit itself to these purchases. Unless we have a person with full knowledge of the food position and our likely future production and likely future requirements from abroad, it would be difficult to enter into any agreement which would be to the benefit of India.

Mr. Vadlal Lalubhai: If at the International Food Conference Dr. Katju could lead the delegation and Sir S. P. Ramamurti, who was a member of the Famine Commission and knew all about the famine conditions in India, could be another member of the delegation, were they not considered fit to represent India at this Conference, and will he see to it that in future all Indians are sent as chief delegates to such international conferences?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Whenever possible, it is the desire and the policy of Government to appoint an Indian to lead the delegation. It was only in view of the peculiar conditions referred to by me that in this case a non-Indian was chosen.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that all the three qualifications which the Honourable Member has mentioned are possessed by our own colleague, Diwan Chaman Lall, who was sent by the Government of India—not even this Government but the previous Government—to the Argentina to negotiate with that Government, and also by Mr B. R. Sen, their own Joint Secretary in the Food Department, why is it that the Government of India has chosen this particular Englishman—Mr Hutchings—for this particular responsibility?

Mr. President: I think the Honourable Member has not asked for any further information. He has expressed opinion and is entering into arguments. What is the information which the Honourable Member wants to ask?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Excuse me. On a matter of personal explanation, I did not intend making an application on behalf of Diwan Chaman Lall.

Mr. President: That was never the implication.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: When was it discovered that Dr. Katju and Ramamurti had not the necessary qualifications to lead this delegation?

Mr. President: He has answered that question. We are not arguing on the relative merits of people.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know from the Honourable Member whether there is no Indian officer who can take charge of the food situation in this country during the absence of Mr Hutchings?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Well, that is for the Food Department to decide.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Was the Food Member asked to spare the services of Mr Hutchings or was he consulted?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Both.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Isn't it a pure departmental matter? It is quite within its right to choose whom it wishes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, but it can make mistakes also.

Mr. President: Order, order.

ELECTION TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS

The Honourable Dr. John Mathai (Member for Railways and Transport): Sir, I beg to move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such Honourable the President, eleven members to serve on Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1947."

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1947."

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay European): Sir, I was given to understand in regard to this motion and others similar that the procedure this year was going to be that the *status quo* was going to be maintained on all Standing Advisory Committees in order to avoid the laborious process of election. May I ask whether that proposed procedure has been abandoned?

Mr. President: I have no knowledge about this suggestion which the Honourable Member has referred to.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: The suggestion was made to me by the Government Whip. Possibly it was withdrawn later. But that was my understanding of the matter.

Mr. President: Whatever that be . . .

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran Non-Muhammadian): There was such a suggestion. But it was later discussed among ourselves and we did not agree to it.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Railways and Transport):
Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Transport is concerned, other than those within the purview of the Standing Committee for Roads, for the financial year 1947-48."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Transport is concerned, other than those within the purview of the Standing Committee for Roads, for the financial year 1947-48."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Railways and Transport):
Sir, I beg to move.

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads, which will be constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Central Road Fund and such other questions relating to roads and road traffic as may be referred to it during the financial year 1947-48."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads, which will be constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Central Road Fund and such other questions relating to roads and road traffic as may be referred to it during the financial year 1947-48."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely:

	Date for nomination	Date for election
1. Standing Finance Committee for Railways.	21st March 1947 .	24th March 1947.
2. Standing Committee for the Department of Transport.	21st March 1947 .	24th March 1947.
3. Standing Committee for Roads	21st March 1947 .	26th March 1947.

The nominations for all the three Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES ON—

- (1) BUSINESS PROFITS TAX BILL.
- (2) INCOME-TAX AND EXCESS PROFITS TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.
- (3) TAXATION ON INCOME (INVESTIGATION COMMISSION) BILL.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to impose a special tax on a certain class of income.

With regard to the second motion, I hope to present the report during the course of the day before the Assembly adjourns and I hope you will permit me to do so.

With regard to the third motion, I move:

“That the time appointed for the presentation of the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for an investigation into matters relating to taxation on income be further extended up to Monday, 31st March 1947.”

The Select Committee has been working morning and evening and they have succeeded in completing their report on two Bills, and I am sorry that they could not complete their report on the third Bill. I therefore hope that the House will agree to extend the time up to the 31st March.

Mr. President: The position is this: The report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940 will be presented by today. Motion moved.

“That the time appointed for the presentation of the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for an investigation into matters relating to taxation on income be further extended up to Monday, 31st March 1947.”

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural): May I know when the Honourable Member expects to put into our hands the printed copy of the report that he has just presented to the House, and also whether the number of days that are necessary under the Standing Orders before the Bill can be taken up for consideration will be computed from the time that the printed report is in our hands or from the time it has been presented. Seven days as you know, Sir, have to elapse between the presentation of the report and the actual starting of the discussion on a Bill.

Mr. President: I am told that the printed copies may be available the day after to-morrow. The report will go to the press now and it will take some time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural). Then the discussion is to commence tomorrow?

Mr. President: I do not think so.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The discussion on this Bill is not to ——— to to-morrow.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) May I point out that the discussion on the Finance Bill is to take place the day after to-morrow.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I hope so, because if we dispose of the other business, then we will take up the Finance Bill. It is down on the order paper.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member give an idea of the programme for the next week or fortnight so that we can make up our own plans?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: My point is that if the Finance Bill is on the order paper that does not mean that it can come on a certain time. It is for the Government to decide when the Finance Bill will come before the House. Even if it comes before the House on Friday, then according to the statement just made, the reports of the Select Committees will not be in the hands of Members

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir]

of this House when they start discussing the Finance Bill and the Select Committees' reports are fundamentally a part of the financial proposals of Government.

Sir, how is that point explained? We were just told that the printed report will be in our hands day after to-morrow. We were also told that there is a chance of the general discussion on the Finance Bill taking place day after to-morrow. It follows that we shall not have the report in our hands when the discussion starts. How is that to be explained?

Mr. President: Let us see what progress we are able to make with the business on hand. We shall consider the situation that may arise out of the difficulty pointed out by the Honourable Member, if and when the occasion arises.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The general discussion on the Finance Bill should not start till the Select Committee Report is in the hands of the Honourable Members at least for 24 hours. I ask for your ruling on that point.

Mr. President: Such a ruling at this stage will be hypothetical. For aught we know it may be in the hands of Honourable Members for more than 12 hours.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: It should be for 24 hours.

Mr. President: I am aware of that particular point of view, and I will see that no difficulties are placed in the way of the Honourable Member, because of the want of the Select Committee's report and that sufficient time is given to him to read and digest the report of the Select Committee. I am sure the Government also do not desire to put any Honourable Member to difficulty on that point.

Ruling re. admissibility of a Minute of Dissent to the Report of Select Committee on Business Profits Tax Bill

Mr. Shavax A. Lal (Government of India Nominated Official) Sir, with reference to the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to impose a special tax on a certain class of income, I gather from the Secretary of the Assembly that Sardar Mangal Singh has sent in a minute of dissent. I submit, Sir, that the minute of dissent is clearly inadmissible, because the Standing Orders are explicit on the point. Standing Order 41 (5) says:

If any member of a Select Committee desires to record a minute of dissent on any point, he must sign the report stating that he does so subject to his minute of dissent, and must at the same time hand in his minute.

The Honourable Member has not signed the Report at all, nor has he authorised the Chairman of the Select Committee to sign the report on his behalf. That being the position, I submit, Sir, that the minute of dissent of Sardar Mangal Singh cannot go on record.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, may we know what is the minute of dissent of Sardar Mangal Singh? We do not know what it is but Mr. Shavax Lal got the information from the Secretary of the Assembly. I have not had, the privilege of knowing it beforehand.

Diwan Chaman Lal (West Punjab Non-Muhammadian) Sir, may I ask whether it is not the usual custom in this House that when an Honourable Member has not had the opportunity of signing the original report, he should be asked to sign it, instead of asking the Honourable Member not to present his minute of dissent or asking that it should not be recorded. The usual procedure is that if a member of the Select Committee has not signed the report of the Committee, it is the duty of the Department to see to it that the report is sent to him for signature. That has been the custom in this House since 1924.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, the usual practice as I know and as the rules provide is that if an Honourable Member is not able to sign for proper reasons the Select Committee's Report, he authorises the Chairman of the Committee to sign it on his behalf. It is only then that his signature becomes effective. If he does not do that, he cannot sign it.

Diwan Ohaman Lall: Sir, may I draw your attention to a precedent. The Report of the Roads Committee, of which I was a member, was presented to the House. I myself was not present in the House, I was away in Lahore. But I was sent the report, it may be by the department, asking me whether I would be prepared to sign the report and on receipt of my telegram, it was taken as authentic that my signature was on the report. A similar procedure could easily be followed by the Department if the Department wants to follow it.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division, Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we discussed this question repeatedly in various select committees, and the conclusion we arrived at was this. That no person is entitled to present a note of dissent unless he has signed the original report. A man may be absent, but even then he is at liberty to sign the report. At the same time, I think it is courtesy for the department to ask the member whether he is willing to sign the report or not. If he refused to sign it, he is not allowed to submit a separate minute of dissent.

Mr. President: Did the Honourable Member ever approach Sardar Mangal Singh to sign the report?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, may I explain the position. Sardar Mangal Singh, unfortunately was not able to attend any meeting of the Select Committee and I understand that Sardar Mangal Singh is not even present in Delhi. Night before last the report was signed. Surely if Sardar Mangal Singh was so much interested in this matter that he sent his minute of dissent without knowing what the report was, he could have certainly authorised the Chairman also to sign the report for him.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, before you give your ruling, I may inform you that when we found that the department was not taking any steps to inform Sardar Mangal Singh, we sent a special messenger with the report as well as the Minute of Dissent to him and then I do not know what reply has been received. After all it is for him to inform us what he has written. I have not had any information.

Mr. President: I can only state my present reactions and even when I decide anything I might say that the question will still remain open, because it will require a little further consideration. At present I am not concerned with the circumstances in which the signatures came to be taken or how the Department acted or did not act, that is a different matter. Now it appears that there have been in the past instances of practice which is in variation with the Rules and Standing Orders. For example, Standing Order 41 (5) says: "If any member of a Select Committee desires to record a minute of dissent on any point, he must sign the report." It is not clear as to whether he must record the minute of dissent at the same time as he signs the report, or he may do it at different times. The only point is that unless he has signed the report, he cannot sign a separate minute of dissent. But then the effect of all this seems to me to be this, that there should not be any occasion for anybody else sending anything in the name of the member present or absent, so that no opportunity or occasion should be given to a member to complain that a particular thing appearing in his name was not sent in by him. That seems to me to be the intention of these rules. It is nobody's case that the letters sent by Sardar Mangal Singh do not bear his own signature. Under what circumstances he has sent those letters is

[Mr. President.]

a different matter but the letters are very clear. Though I do not see any specific and express authority by name in these letters, surely a member who wishes to have his minute of dissent recorded, really desires to sign the report as required by the rules and standing orders. What the Honourable Member says is very clear.

"I regret I was unable to attend the meetings of the Select Committee owing to the trouble in the Punjab. I have read both the report of the Committee and the Minute of Dissent."

That, to my mind, is an important statement. He continues:

"and I agree with the views expressed by my colleagues in the dissenting minute."

The Honourable Member has seen the report of the Select Committee and if the rules require that he must sign it, it is only a technicality. In substance he is aware of the report. If he had merely stated about the minute of dissent, I would have found myself probably in difficulty as to whether he was aware of the report of the Select Committee. Here he distinctly says "I have read both the report of the Committee and the Minute of Dissent"—This is conclusive evidence of the fact that he was conversant with the report of the Select Committee. There is no particular charm in a signature, what is wanted is to fix him with the knowledge of the report of the Select Committee. On that, the evidence is quite clear. If we take it therefore that the report is signed by him, it would be a proper interpretation of the rules in the spirit in which they are made, whatever the technicalities may be. I do not think that we should stick to these technicalities. They are after all intended to observe some general principles. The moment the principles are observed we need not go any further than that. In the second letter he says 'I am herewith sending a note to be included in the Minute of Dissent on the Business Profits Tax Bill'. That is also signed by him. Here he says of inclusion in the report of the Select Committee. Therefore, when the Secretary asked me about this I asked him to include the signature because Sardar Mangal Singh's letter is very clear on that point and I would treat it not as signature in substance. He

12 Noon had knowledge of the Report and somebody had to include his name as signatory. The signature is also authorised according to previous rulings. A member may as well authorise the Secretary to sign it. Therefore, to my mind, this Report will be a proper one to go in.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa Muhammadan). May I know if it is the ruling of the Chair that a member if he is absent in the Select Committee and had not been able to attend even one meeting of the Select Committee can put in his remarks on the Proceedings of the Select Committee only on having read the Report which has been given unofficially by a colleague of his?

Mr. President: I am not concerned how the Honourable Member came to know about the Report. If the rules do not prohibit, there can be no objection.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Are not the proceedings secret, Sir?

Mr. President: They are not secret in that sense. They should not be published before the Report is presented to this House. It is a different thing. But I do not see any reason why a member who is unable to be present at any of the meetings of the Select Committee should not be able or should be prevented from expressing his view. He can read what his colleagues have stated, agree with them and sign. There is no provision in the rules disqualifying a member of the Select Committee if he is not present at any of the meetings, from expressing his view or signing. In fact there are many previous precedents. Diwan Chaman Lal had signed like that though he was absent. My attention is also invited by the Office to a specific instance in March 1939. Mr. Asaf Ali was a member of the Select Committee on the Registration of Foreigners

Bill. Although he did not attend any meeting of the Select Committee he was keen to sign the Report. What is wanted is the views of the particular member, whether he came to conclusions of his own by his presence at the meetings of the Select Committee and *vis à vis* discussion with the members or by having communication with the members. It makes no difference so long as his concurrence is there. As I stated at the beginning, so long as the signature is not disputed the question becomes one of form and not of substance.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Cannot the Honourable Member explain to us the reasons for this inordinate delay, and if there is any trouble in the Select Committee why cannot he withdraw the Bill and be done with it?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will not refer to troubles or to what happened in the Select Committee.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I have said, Sir, that the Select Committee has been meeting morning and evening. I thought the Committee had done very well by giving their Report on two Bills. And the third Bill has nothing to do with the financial proposals.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, it is the worst of all.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will have an opportunity to say about that when the Bill comes to the House. In any case, the consideration of the other two Bills is not dependent on the report of this Committee. That is the point. I put the motion to the House then.

The question is

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for an investigation into matters relating to taxation on income be further extended up to Monday, 31st March 1947."

The motion was adopted.

UNITED NATIONS (SECURITY COUNCIL) BILL

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Member for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations). Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to enable effect to be given to certain provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce of the Charter of the United Nations."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I beg to introduce the Bill.

UNITED NATIONS (PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES) BILL

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Member of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations). I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I beg to introduce the Bill.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (CONTROL) BILL—*contd.*

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the Bill to continue for a limited period powers to prohibit or control imports and exports, as reported by the Select Committee.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel (Bengal European) Mr. President, Sir, when the House adjourned yesterday I was speaking in support of the amendment to sub-clause (1) of Clause 3 of the Bill moved by Mr. Lawson. I would like to explain to the House what the proposal was. The amendment moved by Mr. Lawson recommends to the consideration of the House the following proviso to sub-clause (1) of Clause 3 of the Bill

"Provided that the operation of a restriction on imports shall be limited to a period of six months where such restriction is made for no other purpose than the protection of indigenous industry."

Sir, certain speeches were made yesterday in which it was suggested that in moving this amendment we were actuated by certain selfish motives. I would like in repudiating that suggestion to quote from the actual record of the remarks made by the Honourable Mover when he was moving his amendment. He said in particular

"I acknowledge the Commerce Member's right to protect the industry of the country and if it is necessary he may indeed have to produce a temporary prohibition to protect the industry. I acknowledge his right to do that."

The Honourable Member who is now just leaving the House then proceeded to attack us in vitriolic terms saying that we were adopting a selfish attitude. I think Honourable Members of the House will agree that that charge cannot possibly be sustained.

Mr. Lawson also said that the correct method of protecting indigenous industry is by tariff enquiry—a point which we have very frequently made from this side of the House. Mr. Lawson asked the Commerce Member to reply to a specific question on this particular point namely, "Does he or does he not agree that the proper protection of indigenous industry is by duty tariff?" Well Sir, I do not think that the charges which Mr. Manu Subedar made against us can possibly be sustained either by our record in general or by the particular record on this particular occasion. Then Sir Cawasjee Jehangir also addressed the House and, as I pointed out he really supported our case in that he said and argued that there was no possibility of these powers being used for protective purposes.

Sir Cawasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-official) I did not say that. What I said was that it was not the usual practice that these powers should be used for that purpose but in the special circumstances of the post-war years these powers might be used in the interests of the country in exceptional cases.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: I accept that. I would point out that the amendment that we are commending to the consideration of the House fully covers any exceptional cases. I think it is most unfortunate that the Mover of this amendment should have been misrepresented in the manner in which he has been misrepresented. Mr. Subedar also went on to attack us on the subject of certain remarks which I made in the House when we were debating the Cut-Motion on the P and T Department. He accused me of having expressed the opinion that it will not be wise for this country to undertake the manufacture of certain equipment and he said that he had noted my remarks very carefully. My remarks are indeed noted more carefully in the records of the House and the records of the House say this—

"We ourselves support the view expressed in the post-war plan that it would not be an economic proposition to try to manufacture equipment in this country for the automatic telephone system."

I followed up that statement by recommending to the P and T Department that they should consider manufacturing in this country air conditioning plant, which unlike automatic telephone equipment, could rely on an extensive internal market. Mr. Subedar, in supporting his plea for the manufacture of automatic telephone equipment in this country, supported it on the ground that it was necessary for strategic reasons. I was arguing in this particular case on economic grounds purely and we on this

side of the House shall be perfectly prepared to accept the strategic argument if Mr. Subedar is prepared to apply it with equal force in the case of strategic railways and roads, in the case of the Defence Budget and in the case of the general moral support which he gives—or ought to give—to the Defence Services. If he is prepared to be logical in this matter, then we would fully support the argument that this equipment must be manufactured for strategic reasons.

Unfortunately my friend has chosen to absent himself from the House now and he does not wish to answer the charges made against him. My friend is the first to cry out on precisely the economic grounds which I am urging, when it comes to a question of strategic railways, strategic roads, the Defence Budget and moral support to the Defence Forces.

Well, Sir, as a matter of fact in the case of the P and T. Department I did have a motive in supporting the views of Government on this question. What I wanted to emphasize was that the particular equipment in question is of such a highly technical and complicated nature, that it would require an enormous amount of continuous and intensive research to manufacture it satisfactorily in this country, if it is to keep abreast of the times, and I felt, and we on this side of the House felt that it was highly undesirable to impose on us in the future an equipment which was not of the highest standard and that that will react on the general utility of the services which the P and T. Department were able to render to the country as a whole. I submit that in this matter the consumers' interest is also a matter of the utmost importance.

To come to the particular issue of this amendment, I would like to make a few general observations. I submit that our case for this amendment is both a rational case and also a case which is definitely in the interest of this country and I wish to support that by certain particular arguments. Mr. Subedar tried to impress on the House the dangers of particular types of goods being dumped into this country to the disadvantage of local industry. You can take particular manufactured products, complete articles and say that they can be dumped. Our amendment fully covers that. You have a period of six months. What I would like to draw the attention of the House to is this. These powers are not only to be exercised to control the completed product. They will also control such items as spare parts, replacements and, in particular, tools. I want to deal with that particularly, because it is a very good case to bring to the notice of the House. I should think it is unlikely that many members of this House have tried to buy tools in Delhi but I personally have had occasion to do so. I have tried to get in the bazars things like spanners. They look all right but when you come to use them you find they are made of margarine and are useless. What is the reason for that, Sir? The reason for that is that high grade tool steel is not at present manufactured in this country. Steps are, I know, being taken in that direction. But to take that particular case, I would like to ask the Commerce Member when he thinks that those steps are going to materialise in an adequate supply of tools in this country. Now, Sir, there is a tool famine in this country today and the number of spanners, wrenches and simple instruments of that kind which are required to equip all the *mishins* and work shops in the country must amount to many hundreds of thousands. Assume for the sake of argument that these hundreds of thousands of tools are obtainable by import today and suppose they are imported. The first thing that will arise is that the local manufacturers will telegraph to the Commerce Member saying that tens of thousands of spanners are being imported into the country and that he must impose restriction. The Commerce Member will say "By Jove, we have to be careful about this. We must impose a restriction." What is going to be the result of that? The result is going to be that under the guise or under the claim that you are supporting Indian production you are doing exactly the reverse. You are making it impossible for any man, who likes to do a job thoroughly, to do so. Honourable Members of the House may not appreciate

[Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel]

that the best workman likes the best tools and if you deny him those tools, you are simply going to impair his capacity to carry out his job well. You are encouraging slovenly work and you are going to discourage the workman who has a pride in his job. I merely quote that as a case because I think it is a case and a very good case. I am quite sure hundreds of similar cases can be quoted. Now, the reason why we say that there should be a rational and scientific inquiry before a prohibition is imposed is exactly this that the Tariff Board will go into all these details. Now, Sir, we submit that the Commerce Department is not qualified to do that. It is complete news to us and it has caused us great surprise, that Mr. Manu Subedar should get up and say that they have been exercising their powers in a blameless manner. The experience of trade, commerce and industry in the country, which has been frequently ventilated on the floor of this House, is entirely to the contrary? We have been repeatedly complaining about the serious delays in issuing import and export licences. I need not go into that matter. It is a matter of ancient history and it is still a cause of complaint and further it is still a cause of complaint on the floor of this House. Then, Sir, my second charge is that there is a lack of helpfulness. You send in your application for an import licence and you are merely informed that you cannot have it because the item is manufactured locally. After a great deal of trouble you may receive some advice as to who professes to manufacture it locally. Then we are put to a great deal of further trouble in ascertaining for ourselves that the local product is unsatisfactory. The position would be entirely different if there were some high grade technical advice which was available to industrialists or to importers in the Commerce Department as to how, in fact, they can fulfil their requirements at a reasonable standard of efficiency. But that is entirely lacking and the need will not be fulfilled until the Indian Standards Institute has been set up and is really working and has acquired a fund of the requisite knowledge. But that is going to be a matter of many years. We cannot have any serious and concrete results from that Institute particularly not as it is proposed to be constituted, for a matter. I should think, of at least ten years. In the mean time, we are left to the rough-and-ready methods—if they can be called methods,—of the Commerce Department. It is simply a refusal to issue licences and then they leave the applicant to his own devices. We think that that is a very unsatisfactory position. The needs of the importer should be fully examined and inquired into and his needs could really be provided for in a scientific and satisfactory manner if there were a Tariff Board inquiry. The Tariff Board inquiry, as the House knows, makes it possible for the public to represent their views and their needs to the Board. The powers that are proposed to be given under this Bill do not give any such scope at all to the public. I can go and say that my needs are such and such, but I say this to an official who has not the faintest technical knowledge or the slightest comprehension of what my needs are and he will merely say. This is an interested party and why should I help him? That is a situation which reacts precisely on the particular interests that my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar was professing to defend when he supported the Commerce Member in throwing out this amendment. That is to say, it reacts immediately on the needs of Indian industrialists. That is the reason why we are putting up this amendment before the House.

Now, the third point that I wish to commend to this House is the interest of the consumers. If it is proposed to take measures which are going to redound to the disadvantage of Indian industry, that will be reflected both in the inefficiency of the product and also in its high price. The price of any product is directly related to the quality which is obtainable. If for instance, the spanners that I can buy in the Bazaar last me only for a day, then I have got to get 365 in the year and at 2 annas each they will cost me a great deal more than what I pay to buy one of high quality that can last me for five years. Therefore

this measure will redound directly to the disadvantage of the consumer also. It may be noted that the recent economic discussions in this House, in my opinion, have to a large extent missed the main point. The point is not the actual level of costs but the standard of living. It will be obvious to every one in the House that a man who is earning Rs. 200 a month today has a lower standard of living if, for instance, a bicycle costs him Rs. 250 than he had in 1939 when he was earning Rs. 80 a month and a bicycle cost him Rs. 40 only. That is perfectly obvious, and, if costs are pushed up in this way, then that will work to the disadvantage of the consumer and will steadily depress the standard of living.

Well, Sir, I do not wish to take the time of the House any longer, but I trust I have said enough to show that our action in moving this amendment is not based on any selfish or anti-national designs. It is purely because we are seeking a scientific and rational approach to this problem. For this reason, we say in our amendment that, if an emergency arises, the Commerce Member can propose a prohibition for six months. That will give him the safeguard he wants. But, in the meantime, let there be a scientific and rational inquiry into the real needs of the situation with a view to finding a long term and real remedy, which is not a mere negative prohibition. Now, Sir, may I ask why Honourable Members such as Mr. Manu Subedar have shown such a zeal in opposing this rational and scientific inquiry? The findings of the Tariff Board would almost certainly result in revenue to the State and it is revenue which we seriously need. It has been argued there will be delay in completing the enquiries. There is no reason why, if the enquiry continues for more than six months, prohibition should not be imposed for a further period of six months. Why is there this opposition to a proposal which will bring in revenues to the State? It would either be the prohibition which Government seeks in the Bill or it would be a source of revenue to the State. Why then is there objection to this revenue-earning course? One can only suppose that there must be money in it somewhere for someone. I certainly do not want to impute particular motives to any particular individual. But it appears to stand to reason that when what is offered is a perfectly good and scientific and long term settlement of the particular point and that is the objective, while it would also bring revenue to the State, there must be some revenue to some one somehow when it is opposed. I do not wish to press that point. But I do wish to repeat again what I said before. If these powers are not safeguarded in the manner we suggest, we consider that there is a serious danger of their re-acting to the disadvantage of the interests which the Honourable the Commerce Member claims to protect and in loss of revenue to the State as well. With these words, I support the amendment.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member) Sir, some unnecessary heat has been introduced in the discussion of this amendment and I think we had better concentrated on what is actually the scope of the amendment and how it will work in practice. The Honourable Member Mr. Hirtzel rightly pointed out that when this amendment was introduced by Mr. Lawson, he from the beginning acknowledged that India had the right to protect the industries of the country. Even his amendment itself recognises that right to a certain extent, as he himself wants to provide that "provided that the operation of restriction on import shall be limited to a period of six months where such restriction is made for no other purpose than the protection of indigenous industry". Now, what I would ask is this. If powers under this Bill can be used for the purpose of protecting the indigenous industries for six months, how will the position be altered in the seventh month? Why should the period be limited to six months? The reply probably may be that six months would give ample time for a thorough enquiry by the Tariff Board and thereafter action can be taken according to the recommendations of the

[Mr I I Chundrigar]

Tariff Board To that my reply is twofold. Firstly, so many new industries have sprung up in the country during the war that we have a very large number of applications for protection from various industries. It is physically impossible for the Tariff Board to complete an enquiry into every one of these applications within a period of six months. The enquiry in the case of certain industries is bound to take more than six months. Secondly, if the right of Government to use Import control to protect industries pending enquiry by the Tariff Board for six months is recognised, there can be no serious objection to the Tariff Board ultimately coming to the conclusion that Import control may be used for the purpose of protecting a particular industry which could not otherwise be protected. Assuming, that the Tariff Board made a report recommending import control I do not see any objection to the use of the Import control for the protection of an indigenous industry. These are the grounds on which I oppose the amendment. However, regarding the principle involved I agree with the Mover of this amendment that import control should not normally be used for the purpose of protection, but there may be special cases of certain industries where it may be necessary to use Import control for that purpose and it would be impossible for Government to accept an amendment which would limit their right to use import control only in cases other than those of protection.

Then there is another aspect of the problem and it is this. When Government pass an order restricting, prohibiting or controlling imports, Government would not be expected to mention the grounds on which that order is made. The order would generally be made after consideration of several factors, taken together. If an amendment of this nature is accepted, then Government would be bound to mention in every order restricting imports the grounds on which that order is passed. That would be very difficult for Government to do because at a time when it is possible for India to make only limited purchases from abroad the question will be not merely the question of protecting the indigenous industries but also of how best to utilise the exchange available for making these purchases abroad in the interests of the country as a whole. It may be that Government will have to consider a situation like this. Article 'A' is manufactured in sufficient quantities in the country and Article 'B' is not. Therefore let us rather use the exchange available for importing Article 'B' which is not produced here and our exchange will be better utilised for the purpose of importing article 'B', and so on. Several aspects of the problem will have to be considered simultaneously and it is only after the cumulative effect of the various points involved is taken into consideration that an order would be finally passed. So, I am not in a position to accept this amendment both on the ground of the time limit of six months as well as on the ground that it would be impossible in practice to say whether the order for restricting imports is passed only for the purpose of the protection of indigenous industries. I have already stated that Government would be reluctant to use this method of protection if other methods are found satisfactory. One more factor also should be considered. It has been brought to the notice of Government that in some countries the internal prices are higher than their export prices, with the result that a lower export price places the industry in that country at an advantage over the indigenous industry. Where export prices of any country are lower than their internal prices it becomes a case of dumping, when the only satisfactory way of dealing with it would be by controlling the imports. Therefore, Government will take all these factors into consideration before reaching their final conclusion. Mr Hutzler mentioned that there may be certain articles like high grade steel, tools, and others where quality counts. Even though the foreign article may be dearer than the inferior article manufactured in the country, it may be a case for allowing imports. Now, Sir, though it is difficult to lay

down a hard and fast rule on the subject, Government will fully consider this question, when laying down its policy especially in case of articles which are used by factories here, and the efficiency of factories depends on the quality of tools and other things. Such tools required by the factories for efficient working are generally allowed to be imported, if quality tools are not manufactured in this country. Therefore in each case, Government will have to consider various aspects of the problem and reach a decision. In view of these considerations it is not possible for me to accept the amendment.

Mr. President: The question is

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following Proviso be added, namely

'Provided that the operation of a restriction on imports shall be limited to a period of six months where such restriction is made for no other purpose than the protection of indigenous industry' "

The motion was negatived

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners Association Indian Commerce) Sir, on clause 3 I have given notice of four amendments, but if I am allowed to move the amendment of which I gave notice this morning I shall not move any of those four

Mr. President: It has not been possible to circulate to Members the amendment which was sent in this morning, but it seems to be substantially the same though in a different form. The amendment runs thus —

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following Proviso be added, namely .

'Provided that any person adversely affected by any order made under sub-clause (1) may appeal against the same to a tribunal consisting of three persons including the Chairman who shall be a High Court Judge' "

What the Honourable Member called an independent body in the earlier amendments, he calls here a "tribunal". There, he described the qualifications of persons to be appointed to that independent body; here he does not say anything except that the Chairman shall be a High Court Judge. In the alternative amendment, he suggests a sort of Arbitration Board consisting of three arbitrators. So practically the new amendment covers the same ground in substance,—i.e., reference to an outside body in regard to orders passed. The amendment is different regarding the constitution of that outside Body. So there is no objection, he may move this amendment

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal European) Sir, may I seek your guidance on this point? There can be no objection to this amendment because, as you say, it is covered by the previous amendments. But it refers to a tribunal which is not in existence. Is it in order for an amendment to be moved affecting a body which does not exist?

Mr. President: That will take me into the merits of the scheme, and I should not go into the merits of the proposal. I should decide only on the admissibility. The Honourable Member's difficulty may be valid because the Bill deals nowhere with the constitution of a tribunal, its powers etc.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: I am prepared to modify the amendment if permitted. My object is to see if corruption can be removed or reduced. If the Honourable Member can suggest some other method with that same purpose I shall be satisfied.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may insert words like these: "a Tribunal to be set up by Government with such powers or jurisdiction as Government may deem fit to prescribe by rules, but it shall consist of three members including the Chairman who shall be a High Court Judge".

Something like this may be added so that the amendment may be self-contained. I do not know the mind of Government but if the Honourable Member can come to an agreement on the principle, the wording of this...

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No, Sir, it is not acceptable.

Mr. President: Then the Honourable Member may move it as he likes.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Sir, I move:

"That to sub clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following Provision be added, namely :

'Provided that any person adversely affected by any order made under sub-clause (1) may appeal against the same to a Tribunal to be set up hereafter by Govt. consisting of three persons including the Chairman who shall be a High Court Judge'."

My principal object is to see that corruption which is so rampant in the various departments and in the whole country may be reduced to some extent. If my Honourable friends can suggest any other method to achieve the same purpose I shall be quite happy. Due to war conditions, as we all know, corruption has entered the body of the whole nation. We should make efforts to see that it is reduced as much as possible, and if we can suggest a method for this particular department now we can follow it up with other departments later on, so that corruption may be removed. The constitution of a tribunal as I suggest will itself reduce corruption by 50 per cent. because the officials will feel that there is a check over them and it would not be worth while to carry on as they have been doing. They will be careful in all that they do either knowingly or unwillingly and will see that proper justice is done. It may be said that this method will be very complicated, and there will be hundreds and thousands of cases going up to the Tribunal. In this connection I would like to say that I am prepared to further amend my amendment and say that instead of the words 'any person' we may substitute 'any interest' so that the Association on behalf of their members may go to the tribunal and its work may be reduced to a very great extent. My Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, suggested yesterday that there may be some kind of an advisory committee or a council which should go deep into all these cases and settle the matter. I have no objection to that. My main idea is to remove corruption and to do justice to the parties concerned. If justice has to be done, I feel it is the duty of this Government and this House to try and evolve a kind of machinery which would satisfy this object. I do not think we in this House are so bankrupt as to feel that we are helpless in the matter and we cannot evolve a machinery which would satisfy the just claims of the people concerned, and which would remove corruption, or at least reduce it to the minimum. I think this House ought to be able to find out ways and means to achieve that object and yet simplify the method. Sir, I think that a tribunal or some kind of a committee, composed of people of high-standing in the public life of this country, should go deep into all these complaints once or twice a month and settle them in the right spirit and in the right manner. And I do not think it is difficult to form such a committee, or a body. I do not see why the Government should object to such a check on the doings of the various departments. We have heard enough of the doings of the military side of the Department of Disposals and other departments. We hear day in and day out. . . .

Mr. President: I do not think the Honourable Member need now discuss the general question of corruption. He has already discussed that point at length.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: I would therefore urge the House to accept my amendment, or to suggest some sort of an amendment to my amendment which would serve the purpose. I would be prepared to accept any amendment which would satisfy the demands of the situation so that proper justice

is done to the parties concerned, and we may be able to weed out the corruption or in any case reduce it to the minimum.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 3 of the Bill, the following Proviso be added, namely :

'Provided that any person adversely affected by any order made under sub-clause (1) may appeal against the same to a tribunal to be set up hereafter by Government consisting of three persons including the Chairman who shall be a High Court Judge'."

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions. Non-Muhammadian Rural): The Honourable the Commerce Member in the course of his observations in reply to what I had said while an earlier amendment was being discussed, was pleased to state that a certain matter to which I had referred did not concern his department but the department of Industries and Civil Supplies. I was really referring to a time when Industries and Commerce were under a common Member of Government. He also said that as regards the other example I gave, a Provincial Government was concerned. All that is taking a too legalistic view of things, and shunting me off from one Government to another or from one department to another. The fact remains that certain unwarranted and improper monopolies have been created; and all that my Honourable friend, Mr' Vadilal, myself and others in the House are interested in, is just this that these monopolies should be broken, that certain individuals should not have all the trade in certain commodities in their own hands under the guarantee, so to say, of the Government of India. There ought to be a certain amount of free competition in order that prices may be stabilized, in order also that other persons could join the trade and in order that the consumers may have the best materials at the cheapest possible rate. That is why we want to abolish all monopolies. Any attempt on the part of Government to have controls of this nature inevitably results in the creation of certain monopolies, and very often persons who know the work are shut out and persons who do not know the work but have for some reason or other won the favour of officers of Government, get into that trade both to the detriment of the trade and the destruction of public morals, resulting in inconvenience to the public at large.

I am not at all interested in the formula that may be adopted. Surely the Government of India with its large staff of law officers, are more competent than any one of us, non-official Members of this House, in the matter of the drafting of proper laws. I am, Sir, therefore not interested in the formula, but I am interested in the principle that Mr. Vadilal is propounding and which I am supporting. I feel that it is up to the Commerce Member and his advisers to find a set of words that would give us the definite assurance and that assurance should be embodied in law so that there would be no monopolies, no favouritism, and that the trade will be allowed to run into proper channels, the public will not be inconvenienced, and no one will be deliberately put out of a sphere of activity to which he is entitled and for which he is fit. That is all our purpose, and I do wish that the Honourable the Commerce Member in his reply will please give us some sort of an assurance so that we may feel that the wrongs of the past will not be repeated, that no monopolies will be created and that we should have all that we require, in the right and proper manner.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The Honourable Member Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai has moved his amendment on the ground that corruption exists on a large scale, and that his amendment will prevent it. I must say that these remarks about general corruption are extremely exaggerated and whatever may have been the position in the past I have been telling all Members who approached me that if they come across any case of corruption, and report it to me, I am prepared to make enquiries in the matter and see that the person concerned is adequately punished.

[Mr. I. I. Chundrigar.]

So far as this amendment is concerned, I want the members to realize the difficulties likely to be caused in its administration. There may be one hundred items on the import side and fifty items on the export side, and for each item, there may be nearly twenty to thirty destinations and for each destination, the number of applicants may be somewhere about 500, and sometimes in some remunerative destinations the number may run into thousands. If

I F.M. all dissatisfied applicants were to be referred to a tribunal of three persons, one of whom may be High Court Judge, by the time the Tribunal finish their enquiries into all these applications, the year will have run out and our import trade entirely dislocated. These are difficulties, nay insuperable difficulties, in accepting an amendment of this type, and I for one fail to understand how the appointment of a Committee of three, of which one is a High Court Judge, can in any case be described to be such a check on corruption, and how highly placed officers in the department who have experience of this kind of work cannot be deputed to deal justly with these cases. I have mentioned that whenever any serious complaints have been brought to my notice, even in cases which were decided years ago, I have got the cases re-examined to find out whether an injustice has been done to a particular individual or not. If any cases are brought to the notice of Government, they will ask a competent officer to make fresh enquiries into the matter and set it right if some injustice is found to have been done to anybody. That has been the policy of Government and that will be the policy of Government. Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai knows that when he brought some matters to the notice of the Department, an enquiry was made. Therefore, I submit that these allegations about corruption and similar things are mentioned just to find out some way of changing the present method. But I find that the only way to administer the control effectively is by the method which the Department now adopts and if any machinery of the type suggested were set up, the whole export and import trade would be dislocated. Therefore, I am not in a position to accept this amendment.

Mr. President: There is no right of reply.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: I thank the Honourable Member for his assurance but I am not satisfied with the reasons given by him. However, not to embarrass him, if he will not accept this amendment, I would not like to press it.

Mr. President: Does he wish to withdraw his amendment?

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Not to create any embarrassment to him.

Mr. President: I am not concerned with the motives of the Honourable Member. Does the Honourable Member wish to have the leave of the House to withdraw?

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. President: Then all the other amendments of the Honourable Member fall through. There is one more amendment by Mr. Lawson. I have not been able to follow the amendment. Is it consequential to the first amendment?

Mr. C. P. Lawson: No, Sir. Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 3 of the Bill, all the words occurring after the word 'accordingly' be omitted."

I shall be as brief as possible in explaining to the House the effect of this amendment. Sub-clause 2 of clause 3 enhances the penalties created in section 183 of the Sea Customs Act. That particular section of the Sea Customs Act permits the customs authorities to impose a fine or confiscation of the

goods if the provisions of the Sea Customs Act are transgressed. If a shipper fails to produce his shipping documents: if he is trying to avoid the payment of sea customs duties and so on; then this clause of the Sea Customs Act can operate, and the sea customs authorities can impose a fine or confiscate the goods but the option of accepting the fine or submitting to confiscation of the goods lies with the importer. Now, Sir, the effect of the clause in this Bill is to remove that option and in fact the sea customs authorities can say under this Bill, "We will either take your goods, we will confiscate them, or we will impose a fine of any size and you will have to accept what we provide." In other words, the option is removed from the importer and is placed on the side of the sea customs authorities. This provision was made, I believe, in 1941, when presumably the intention was that as very valuable shipping space which was needed so badly for the war might be used improperly, it should be within the summary powers of customs officials to impose extra penalties on the importer.

Now, Sir, I would like to point out...

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will you please read out this section that is referred to here?

Mr. O. P. Lawson: I have not the section with me. It says just what I have explained to the House. The point so far as I am concerned is this; that Section 183 of the Sea Customs Act to which I refer limits the mischief that the importer can suffer to the confiscation of the goods. I hope that will be understood by the House. If he has the option, he cannot suffer any worse penalty than the confiscation of the value of the goods, because in that case he will opt to have the goods confiscated. That is a very heavy penalty. The importer will have paid for the goods and he will have involved himself in all the landing charges and his losses will be considerable. But, Sir, and this is the big point that I wish to put to you: if an importer transgresses the provisions of this Bill, he is still liable to the penal clause in the Bill, and not only can he incur a judicial fine without limit, but he can also be imprisoned under this Bill. So in those circumstances, Sir, what possible risk can there be for increasing the mischief of the Sea Customs Act in respect of the importer? It seems to me to be a most unnecessary extra burden placed upon the importer in normal times of peace: or if in like, in abnormal times of peace. But why should this extra burden be imposed? I would like to point out, Sir, that this option which we are giving under this Bill to the sea customs authorities to fine the importer or to confiscate his goods is a power given to a non-judicial officer. I suggest that this may be interpreted differently. A sea customs officer in one port may impose one kind of fine and an officer in another port may impose a different kind of fine. I do not want to raise the perpetual point of corruption. But it is not wise to increase the penal powers that officials have in connection with these imports.

Another point that I must put to you is this. Nowadays, import and export commerce is so complicated that there is scope for a perfectly genuine mistake. There is even, Sir, scope for a transgression of the clauses of this Bill which will not be the fault of the importer at all but fault of the authorities, and I have brought to the notice of the Commerce Member such a situation, a situation in which an importer has brought in to this country goods which the Customs authorities held to be goods for which an import licence is necessary. On the other hand the Chief Controller of Imports had informed the importer that this particular type of goods was on the open general licence list and a licence was not necessary. Due to that conflict of opinion I have instances of goods being imported without a licence. The Customs authorities say that these goods should have a licence and therefore

[Mr. C. P. Lawson] the importer will be fined and that fine has been imposed. Admittedly, then, the importer can appeal to the Board of Revenue and if he does I am quite certain that in these circumstances the ward would be reversed. But I suggest that that is all the more reason for limiting the penal powers of the Customs authorities. If you do not keep these powers down to a reasonably low scale—I do not call the confiscation of goods a low scale, it is a very severe penalty and that penalty still lies with the Customs authorities—and if under this Bill you wish even to increase that power on the part of a non-judicial officer, surely that must be wrong. There cannot be a reason for it. I know that on these occasions the Commerce Member almost invariably throws at me the old canon ball “Can you produce evidence to show that the power has been misused?” In this particular instance I can, and here I cannot allow him to call it bluff. . . .

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Was not the matter set right?

Mr. C. P. Lawson: Certainly, Sir. That is just my point. It was set right after an award had been made, after a fine had been collected, which was in no way justified, a fine which could only have been levied if powers were given to a non-judicial officer, who used those powers incorrectly. So I think the interruption of the Honourable the Commerce Member, which I welcome, gives me the very ground I require for suggesting that this power must be limited. Sir, I will not delay the House any more but I commend this amendment to the acceptance of the Government and the House.

Mr. President: Amendment moved

“That in sub-clause (2) of clause 3 of the Bill, all the words occurring after the word ‘accordingly’ be omitted”

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch Till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Mr. President, Sir, I must confess I have a great deal of sympathy with the amendment that has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson. I regret that though his features were visible, his voice was inaudible to me at this place. I thus lost the benefit of his arguments. But reading the law as it stands and as it would stand if his amendment were accepted I think there is a great deal to be said in his favour. Sir, the relevant clause of the Bill reads as follows:

“All goods to which any order under sub-section (1) applies shall be deemed to be goods of which the import or export has been prohibited or restricted under section 19 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, and all the provisions of that Act shall have effect accordingly, except that section 183 thereof shall have effect as if for the word ‘shall’ therein the word ‘may’ were substituted.”

My friend Mr. Lawson seeks to delete the words—

“except that section 183 thereof shall have effect as if for the word ‘shall’ therein the word ‘may’ were substituted.”

Sir, ‘shall’ is a tricky word. I seem to remember that long ago in my grammar I was taught that “‘shall’ in the first person and ‘will’ in the second and third stands for simple futurity” while “‘will’ in first and ‘shall’ in the second and third person denotes the determination of the speaker”. It is said that a gentleman falling into a well cried out: ‘I will die, no one shall save me’, and the person on the top who really wanted to save him was thus prohibited from doing so.

So far as I am able to understand the law—and I am not very learned either in law or the English language—I find that according to Section 183 of the Sea Customs Act, whenever an official seized some goods and was authorised by the law to confiscate them, he was bound to give the owner of the goods the option of paying a fine instead, for the law says: ‘the officer adjudging it shall give the

owner' of the goods an option to pay in lieu of confiscation such fine as the officer thinks fit' According to the proposal of the Honourable the Commerce Member, the word 'shall' is to be substituted by the word 'may' so that the authority concerned will have the right to give or not give the option to the owner of the goods to pay a fine. The officer may like to confiscate the goods and so he will order that the goods be confiscated. The owner will have no choice. I think that will be hard. If the owner of the goods wants that he should be levied a fine and that the goods may be salvaged I think he should be given the option. If the old law which is being followed permitted that option I see no reason why this new law which is only extending the operations of the old law, should go a step further and prohibit this option. I do think, Sir, that the Honourable the Commerce Member will see the justice of the claim put forward by my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson and accept his amendment.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Sir, I am sorry I am not in a position to accept this amendment. I will explain the reasons why. No doubt, under the Sea Customs Act, 1878 which dealt with normal times, the officer adjudging the case was bound to give an option to an importer who imported goods without permission or who had committed any offence under the Indian Sea Customs Act either to agree to the confiscation of goods or to pay a fine which may be adjudged by the officer. But when the Defence of India Rules were framed to meet the situation arising during the war, the change which is now proposed to be made by this Bill was effected. Under the Defence of India Rules as well as under the Emergency Powers Continuance Ordinance, the position is that the officer adjudging the case is the final judge on this point, subject of course to the right of appeal provided under the Indian Sea Customs Act. As I explained during the general discussion yesterday the point in a nutshell is this. Suppose some particular person flagrantly defies an order issued by Government and he says 'I am prepared to pay any penalty or fine, but I want to bring these goods in the country'. The question is whether Government should have the power of not allowing those goods to enter the country. I may give an illustration. Take the abnormal case of South Africa. The Government of India have applied sanctions against South Africa. Some South African goods come here in the port. Is it the intention of the House that the importer should only be penalised by payment of a fine or prosecution but should have the right to insist that the goods shall enter the country and shall be distributed in the country in spite of the orders of Government. Therefore instances may occur where it may be necessary to prevent import under any circumstances.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: What will you do with the goods?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: They may be dumped into the sea for all I know or may be otherwise dealt with. They will not be allowed to be landed in India. Now, there may be another case. Supposing there is a small industry in India which is manufacturing only about 200 tons of a particular commodity. There may be cartels in the world which may be manufacturing hundreds of thousands of tons of that very commodity and a cartel may bring a large consignment into India. If that consignment is allowed to be landed even on the payment of a fine, it may be in a position to kill the local industry. There may be other instances. Therefore it is necessary to have these powers.

Now, the question is this. It is the officer adjudging the case who has to decide whether a person has to be given an option for paying the fine or not. In normal cases, the officer will give him an option. If it is an abnormal case, if it is a case of flagrant breach of Government order or if the breach is of such a character that it will have immense repercussions, then it may be necessary to say that in spite of any fine which a party may pay, the goods shall be confiscated and shall not be returned to the importer.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will there be detailed instructions from Government?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Naturally the instructions will be issued. Suppose the officer adjudging the case decides it wrongly. There is an appeal to the Central Board of Revenue, who will consult the Department concerned as to what is their policy, what is to be done in certain abnormal cases. If any injustice is done by a particular officer taking a perverse view, then the party aggrieved has a right of appeal. I am sure Government will not exercise their powers harshly in cases where the breach was not deliberate. Mr. Lawson mentioned the case of certain *bona fide* mistakes where there was a difference of opinion between different customs officers or between the importer on the one hand and the department on the other. In such cases whenever the matter was brought to the notice of Government, action was taken and the powers were not utilised for the purpose of taking harsh action against people who committed *bona fide* mistakes. If the department is convinced that it is only a technical breach or a *bona fide* mistake, either a nominal fine is imposed or the offence is compounded.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Where is the provision for appeal to the Central Board of Revenue?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It is in the Sea Customs Act. This order shall be deemed to be passed under section 19 of the Sea Customs Act. Therefore the provisions for appeal in the Sea Customs Act will apply. In view of these provisions, though I agree that the powers of confiscation shall not be utilised in every case nor shall they be utilised harshly, it is necessary that the powers should be vested in the officer.

Mr. President: I should like to have one point clarified. I am just intervening in the interest of the best possible legislation. I do not want to enter into any arguments. I have also not studied the Sea Customs Act but is it contended that the position is that a particular article, the import of which is prohibited by orders, is again allowed to be brought into India in contravention of that order, if the party pays the penalty. Is that the position?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: What happens is this. Supposing the import is prohibited and the article is brought and it lies in bond, then the customs officer at the port has the right under section 167 to say that as you have committed a breach of the order by importing this article, you will be liable to pay this penalty or have the goods confiscated. The party who has imported the goods in breach of Government orders may either pay those penalties or have the goods confiscated under section 183. The option is given—the order of confiscation will be cancelled if you pay this fine. Then in spite of the breaches of Government order the goods do arrive in a country on payment of the penalties both under sections 167 and 183.

Mr. President: Is that order necessarily an order prohibiting the import of goods. If an order of prohibition stands, then any attempt at breach of that order will be sufficiently punished by penalty. The order of prohibition stands and the goods will go back. What happens to the goods? There are several orders which the Sea Customs Act has provided. We may not prohibit the entry of goods. The entry of goods may be permissible by option. I am referring specifically to an order which prohibits the entry of goods. Mr. Lawson's argument, as I understood him, is that a double penalty is provided by this particular legislation, as further penalties are provided in section 5 and in addition to that the importer is deprived of this option. Why not give the option to the importer to send the goods to the country from which he brought them?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That option can be exercised so long as the goods are not landed. Once the goods are landed, the discretion lies with the officer to confiscate and to levy the penalty. There have been cases in the past where people have brought the goods in India against the orders of prohibition passed by Government. If the only penalty is to take back the goods, think very frequent breaches of such orders will take place.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: Might I interrupt the Honourable Member? He is in an uncompromising mood today. I have shown perfectly clearly that as a result of entrusting official and non-judicial officers with powers of levying fines or confiscating goods, abuses have arisen in the past and as he will not consent to my ceiling of powers for these non-judicial officers, will he undertake to issue directive so that the powers are used in the manner which he desires that they should be used and not in the manner which leads to appeals to a Board of Revenue.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I remember that one case was brought to me and I issued instructions to the departmental officers. If I find that there is any possibility of the officers not understanding the Government policy, I shall see that necessary instructions are issued.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: It is not the question of understanding the policy but of co-ordinating the policy.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That will be done.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 3 of the Bill all the words occurring after the word 'accordingly' be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. P. B. Gole (Barr: Non-Muhammadian). Sir, I have given notice of an amendment today at 11 A.M. Of course, the amendment is in accordance with the remarks which I made when the general discussion on this Bill was going on. As I was not satisfied with the reply given by the Honourable Member in charge, I thought it better to give notice of an amendment. It is with a view to bring the whole clause 3 into line. If you will kindly permit me to move that amendment it will be much better. If the Honourable Member in charge refuses to accept it, then it is a different matter. It is entirely in your discretion to allow me to move it.

Mr. President: I have said it more than once in this House that I do not like these last minute amendments except those which are substantially agreed to by all sections in the House. Otherwise, there is no end to the amendments coming in and I do not want to be driven into the invidious position of accepting some and rejecting others. Of course, I am entirely in the hands of the House.

Mr. P. B. Gole: May I just point out what the amendment is and I have given notice of it?

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division: Muhammadan, Rural). We have not got a copy of the amendment.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: This point was raised during the general discussion and I gave a reply that even though the goods were not prohibited or restricted, it is necessary to have those powers to get space in warehouses. Therefore, it is not possible for me to accept it. I gave the explanation yesterday.

Mr. President: In that case, there is no question of permitting that amendment now. The matter has already been discussed in the House. I do not think I can permit the Honourable Member to move it.

Mr. P. B. Gole: It would be much better if I were allowed to explain the amendment.

Mr. President: There has already been a discussion on the point.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Sir, I oppose this clause. If I had tabled my amendment earlier, I could have expected a very satisfactory reply from the Honourable Member in charge as to why this particular sub-clause (3) has been put in the manner in which it has been put in. If you were to read the whole sub-clause (3), you will find that it refers to prohibited or restricted goods. But if you refer to

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member propose to repeat all his arguments again. He might just touch those arguments, but if he intends to repeat them, I am afraid I shall not be able to permit him to do that.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I am not repeating, but I am just trying to show the inconsistency in this sub-clause. Yesterday I did not show the inconsistency; I only pointed out the difficulties that arose. If you read the whole clause 3, it comes to this. Sub-clause (1) refers to an order prohibiting or restricting the import or export of goods. That is all right. Sub-clause (2) refers to the confiscation, if necessary, of those restricted or prohibited goods. That is also all right because it is in consonance with sub-clause (1) and it follows as a corollary of sub-clause (1). If you refer to sub-clause (3), it is too wide, wider than sub-clause (2). In sub-clause (3), the reference is to any goods, whether restricted or prohibited or not. Sir, I know the Honourable Member in charge is an eminent lawyer, and he will see that, really speaking, this sub-clause should refer to goods which have been restricted or prohibited under sub-clause (1). Now, here sub-clause (3) is wider than sub-clause (1). That would be rather inconsistent. Therefore, I pointed out yesterday that it is too wide a power which has been claimed under sub-clause (3). If this sub-clause is to be consistent, it should refer only to restricted and prohibited goods and you should not include in them goods that are not restricted under sub-clause (1).

Yesterday I was told that the authorities are wise enough and how would they administer this law in a wrong manner? In fact, an assurance was given on the floor of the House that Government will use their discretion in the best possible manner. But this assurance is not in the Act. Those assurances may remain in the proceedings of this House but they are not to be found in the Act. Suppose those goods which are not prohibited or restricted are standing in the harbour and the Customs officer takes it into his head to prohibit their clearance, what is to happen? He will not allow the goods to be landed nor would he allow under sub-clause (3) even their transshipment, because that power has also been taken. So, if the Customs officer is a headstrong man, he will say "All right, you have brought these goods, but I am going to restrict their clearance for home consumption and I am also going to restrict you from transshipping them to any other place abroad." In that case, what is this man to do? Perhaps the goods should be drowned in the sea as the Honourable Member himself said and perhaps the man should also be drowned in the sea along with them. Of course, the situation has not arisen. But if it is to arise later on, are we going to enact for it? Are there any instances which have occurred where the party which brought in goods which were not prohibited or restricted and which were lying in the harbour were not allowed to land? Is not the Honourable Member going to take into consideration this point that at least under the law no wide powers should be given? If we are going to leave all these matters to the good sense of the authority, then there is no necessity of making this law. The authorities are very sensible and they are not corrupt as the Honourable Member said. He also said that there is much exaggeration in this sort of corruption that is attributed to them, although every Member in this House has complained about it. If the Honourable Member is satisfied that there is no corruption and the officers of Government are wise, then in that case there is no necessity of enacting any law at all. Leave it to the good sense of the Customs officers or the officers of the Government of India and all will be well, and we shall all be governed all right and it is not necessary for this House to debate on such questions. This will be *Ram raj*. I would certainly welcome it. But really speaking, as we are living in a democratic age, we are very cautious about the rights of the people and it would be really harmful to the country as a whole to entrust such wide powers to Government which propose to exercise them in a manner most detrimental to individual members. Therefore my amendment comes in which is a

P.M. very simple one meant only to restrict this sub-clause (3) to restricted and prohibited goods in order to make it consistent, so that just as sub-clause

(2) refers to goods restricted or prohibited under sub-clause (1), the goods referred to in sub-clause (8) should also refer to goods restricted under sub-clause (1). That was my idea so that the whole section might look consistent so far as clearance of the goods was concerned. I am really surprised and I am very sorry that the Honourable Member does not see his way to accept this amendment. So that question goes out. I have explained the reasons why I have tabled this amendment because I was not satisfied with the reply given by the Honourable Member, and I, for one, would not leave these matters which are matters of law to the sweet will and discretion of the government officers. Therefore I oppose this clause as a whole.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, this Bill has been before the House for over a week and there was ample opportunity for every Honourable Member to table amendments. Of course it is possible that my Honourable friend did not think of it till this morning, but in any case, I think courtesy demanded that he should have circulated copies of his amendment at least to the Whips of Parties so that any Member who is interested in the Bill may have an opportunity to read and study this amendment. As I read the Bill, I do not see any contradiction myself. He may argue that some officers may take it into their heads to do anything. This kind of apprehension applies to every section of the Indian Penal Code. If a magistrate or any government officer takes it into his head and does something, that is an extraneous circumstance. It is generally presumed that the law will be administered by persons who have got commonsense. If the Government should find out that one of the government officers does not use his commonsense but is administering the law in a freakish way, it will certainly be the duty of the Government to see that that officer does not continue in his post. My friend's apprehension is this. Suppose the goods are neither allowed to go back nor allowed to come to the shore, then what happens. I could not by any stretch of imagination think of an officer in a responsible position like the Collector of Customs who will issue such orders that goods should remain on the boat for an indefinite period. Something will have to be done and it cannot be allowed to drift in this manner. If the Honourable Member should read the Bill carefully, he will find that the Government can always issue instructions as regards the manner in which these things should be disposed of. This power is still there and it can be exercised. Besides the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill has given an assurance on the floor of the House as demanded by Mr. Lawson that he will issue instructions in the manner demanded by him. With these precautions which have been demanded and with the assurance given on the floor of the House, I do not foresee any great difficulty in actually carrying out the purpose of sub-clause (3). I have not read the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Gole. Perhaps it may be an improvement in drafting but without carefully studying it, it is very difficult to give an expression of opinion. As far as I can see this particular clause is not unworkable. It is quite workable and with the assurance given by the Honourable Member that if at any moment a situation arises that some officer makes it unworkable by not using his commonsense then the matter will be looked into by the Government and the whole thing will be corrected, with this assurance I think my Honourable friend should have no objection to his clause being adopted. Sir, I support the retention of this clause.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Sir, I have explained the point raised by Mr. Gole during the general discussion yesterday and therefore I do not wish to take up much time over it. No doubt the powers under this clause can be used in two cases, firstly in the case in which Mr. Gole is prepared to allow the Government to use it, namely with respect to goods the import or export of which is either prohibited, restricted or controlled. He says it should

[Mr. I. I. Chundrigar]

not be allowed to be used in any other case. But as I mentioned yesterday it is to be used sometimes even in respect of goods the import or export of which is not prohibited or restricted or controlled when we have to find room for other goods which arrive and orders have to be passed to find room for them. I can assure Mr. Gole that the powers will not be used in respect of goods other than those the export or import of which is prohibited, restricted or controlled except in cases where it may be necessary for the purpose of having necessary warehouse accommodation.

Mr. President: The question is

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division Non-Muhammadan): (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 19th March, 1947. English translation given below—*Ed. of D.*).

I refer you to certain provisions of clause 7 of the Bill. It reads—(Interruption) The House might have noticed that Clause 7 gives more safeguards than are required. It encourages public servants to do what they please since it gives them too much protection. I think it gives them the same authority as it gives to the Government that they may do whatever they like without fear of any law. After martial law was proclaimed in India, Immunity Act was passed. Now in every Ordinance and Bill there is an immunity clause. Immunity has come to mean nothing in these days because this is the time of peace and not of war. The need of the day is to establish peace. In this time of peace there is no need for such a clause for a public servant. I should say that in reality these laws which are being made to take the place of the ordinances, give such power to the officials and the Central Government that they can abuse their authority. This bill should contain no provision for the protection of those who have been given full powers in it. In the Bill the powers for the Central Government are such that they may or make the country according to their sweet will. I do not think there is any member in the House who does not want to give power to the Government to control export and import. But, at the same time I uphold the principle and consider it necessary that if this power is given to a Government whether it be national or not national it is necessary that the legal reservation that vests in the public should be upheld. There is a saying in English: "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty". If you consider that this power will be abused by Government or by any of its officials you should not allow the liberty given to them in the bill. Honest and good-intentioned public servant need no safeguard, and it will be foolhardiness to give safeguards to a dishonest and corrupted official. A good law with legal power and the safeguard for its use has two inseparable aspects. Separating one from the other will cause many irregularities. It is, therefore, necessary for a good law to keep them together. That is why no independent body or impartial body who could regulate the powers vested in the law has not been framed. As at the time when the question of giving further powers to the police was before the House, Sardar Patel said that possibilities for corruption increase with the increase of powers of the officials. Similarly if you give power in this Bill you increase corruption and its possibilities. Moreover, where is the necessity to enact this Act of safeguards when there is one already existing? I ask with due deference how can an officer working in good faith in conformity with sections 76 and 79 of the Indian Penal Code be liable or be answerable for his actions? Such an officer requires no new law.

Section 7 lays down that no court can question an order given under this Act. The order is final and nothing can stop its consequences. But, if the order is given with a corrupt motive or carelessness there is no reason why the giver of the order should be protected from legal responsibility. If a person has done something which comes within the purview of an act there is no need to enact another law to safeguard him. We in India do not want laws of France. *Droit Administratif* is not in force in India. According to British law which is also the law of India if a soldier in obedience to an illegal order of his Commander shoots a man dead he is liable to be punished with death by a civil court. We must therefore uphold the ordinary law of the land and should not go beyond it. I have heard Dr. Zia Uddin and others expressing their ideas on Controls. They have all said that control and corruption are one and the same thing. If there is so much corruption what is the remedy for it? There is only one remedy and that is that every Government official should be held responsible for his illegal action and should be given no safeguards. If your intention is to provide safeguard for an honest officer he is already safeguarded by the existing law of the land. It is well understood that further safeguards have been provided for them; they will get careless and corrupted. All the members have been plainly telling the House that corruption and dishonesty exist in the Commerce Department and it is feared that the passing of this bill will enhance them. I feel disgusted when I hear the stories of corruption in the lobbies. There are complaints against high officials. I wonder how the Commerce Member has said that there will be no corruption in the administration of this Act. I live in the Punjab and I am not much aware of the export and import Department, but members who had from Calcutta and Bombay say that there is great corruption in it. If it exists I will say that our misfortune knows no bound. How will the Commerce Member who says there is no corruption in his Department remove it? I say if there is corruption it should be admitted and met rather than to say that there is no corruption. Thus I am afraid will increase it. Moreover, these words in section 7—"no order made or deemed to have been made under the Act shall be called in question in any Court"—are so wide that they give a great arbitrary power to the authorities. Final power or authority is a dangerous thing and its right use is necessary for the good of the society. I need not repeat the definition of the arbitrary power given at the trial of Warren Hastings. All the Members might remember the speech of Edmund Burke in which he says that arbitrary power is dangerous to whomsoever it may be given. The man who uses it is answerable to the law of the land.

Moreover, the Bill contains these words "and no suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for any thing in good faith done or intended to be done." Sir, I want to tell you particularly about these words that if an officer works with honesty and in good faith he needs no safeguards especially when legal safeguards exist in the law of the land. If the intention is good and the action is done in good faith who can hold him blameworthy? I say it is not proper to give so much safeguard to a public servant that he may defend himself under cover of good intention when his action is not based on good faith. There is a saying in English: "The way to hell is paved with good intentions." Moreover, it is very difficult to determine good or bad intention. The saying is "Secret things belong to God." I should say that I have never seen a Bill in such wide terms. Mr. Satkopachari has already referred to it. I am really at a loss to understand why should we allow such provisions in an Act. The fact is no matter how much the intention is bad and the action is good or the intention is good and the action is bad we will draw conclusions from the act only and the act alone will prove the goodness or badness of the intention. It will be

[Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava]

dangerous therefore not to see the act but see the intention. Section 4 of the Bill says. "Anything in good faith done or intended to be done under this act or any order made or deemed to have been made thereunder." "Deemed" means an order which do not come but can be drawn under it by inference. Even that is outside the court's jurisdiction nor can any member of the public seek redress against any official's such act.

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member refer to clause 4 of the Bill? That clause not only declares that certain orders made under the Defence of India Rules shall continue in force but even when the Defence of India Rules are not in force, these orders shall be "deemed to have been made" under this Act. Therefore there is a classification of two kinds of things,—things actually done after this Act comes into operation and orders passed under the Defence of India Rules which shall be "deemed to have been passed" under this law. Therefore there are two classes of acts and orders—one order made under this Act when it comes into force, and the other orders made under previous legislation after it expires which shall be deemed to be orders passed under this Act. Therefore the words used are 'shall be deemed'.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I thank you, Sir, for your explanation of section 4. "Deemed to have been made" refers to orders contained in the Defence of India Act. May I draw your attention to these words of section 4: "Shall so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act continue to be in force and be deemed to have been made under this Act." In the first instance the original order in the Defence of India Act was inconsistent. The mistake that shall be made cannot be rectified, which means that if the original of the Defence of India Act was inconsistent it could be made consistent by dint of "deemed to have been made" and there will be orders under this Act which though not contained in it will be considered consistent by the force of "deemed to have been made". In other words, order which will not be contained in the Act will be made consistent by 'double dose of distillation' under the definition of "deemed to have been made."

Mr. President: I am afraid the Honourable Member has completely misunderstood the whole thing. The Honourable Member will see, if he looks at the proper interpretation of it, that orders made under the Defence of India Rules shall continue to be in force to the extent to which they are "not inconsistent with" the present Act. The moment, therefore, any old orders are inconsistent with this Act, they will not remain in force, and to the extent to which they are consistent with this Act they will remain in force. Though they have been old orders passed under the Defence of India Rules they shall "be deemed to be" orders passed under this Act. Such a procedure is necessary for the purpose of continuing the administration of the department. What was done in the past in so far as it is "not inconsistent" with this Act shall be deemed to be in force under this Act.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore, Non-Muhammadian Rural): What about the future?

Mr. President: About the future, as soon as this Act comes into force, orders will be made under this Act. Therefore, there are two classes of orders—old orders which continue in so far as they are not "inconsistent" and new orders to be given under this Act. One set is classed as orders "deemed to have been made" under this Act and the others are orders under this Act. Therefore, this double expression seems to have been used. The Honourable the Commerce Member will be a better exponent of this. I am merely drawing the attention of the Honourable Member to the legal aspect of this.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I submit with due deference that I understand section 7 contains orders made under this Act and also those orders deemed to have been made under this act. The section therefore contains such orders both past and future. Sir, I want to refer you to the statement made by Honourable the Commerce Member saying that when no particular complaint has been made by the public with respect to this Act there is no harm in giving such powers. I do not admit that powers have not been abused or exceeded but I want to say in answer, to this argument that if the law to hold a public servant answerable to a court be accepted as right how can it be proved that the public gave unreasonable trouble or loss to the public servant or made unlawful use of the privilege?

In view of all these things I say that be he a public servant or anybody else the grant of such a safeguard which may allow a person to use power arbitrarily is not proper. The law has already given many safeguards. I should, therefore, say that unless the necessity is proved this sort of special clause is allowed by no police. This is a thing which should not be overlooked by any legislator. Wherever such a clause is made there the public's right is usurped. It is the right of every individual be he a public servant or anybody else to bring the person who has given him trouble, to the Court. This right is usurped by this Clause. The right of the public is inherent and we certainly complain that our right is being usurped. Such a clause is being passed under our very nose. I say where no other safeguards have been kept; where arbitrary powers have been given there you should not deprive the people of their legal rights which is guarantee and safety for the right use of the powers of the law. I therefore say that clause 7 may not be accepted.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province General): (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 19th March, 1947. English translation given below—*Ed. of D*.)

Sir, I had no mind to speak on this bill, but hearing the passioned speech of Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava I thought of saying something. He has said in the course of his speech that a sepoy who kills a man under orders from his officer can be prosecuted in a court of law. This is absolutely wrong. The truth is that a government servant who discharges an unpleasant duty must enjoy protection or otherwise it will be like making a vehicle and fastening its wheels with strong chains so that it may not work. It is a mere excuse to say that it is an interference in public freedom. As a matter of fact any kind of law is an interference in individual freedom. I understand Panditji's feelings. It is his duty to oppose such a legislation otherwise how will the vakils make their living. This is a fact.

And, therefore, my Honourable friend is worried. I will appeal to the Honourable the Commerce Member to put it in such a way that the income of the Vakils and Pleaders is not decreased and then it will be approved by all the lawyers and we will be saved all these long speeches.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I said in the beginning that I am opposed to this system of controls. It is a great nuisance to the public, and I said that corruption and controls are synonymous and interchangeable. Just now I asked one of my poet friends—Maulana Zafar Ali Khan—who is an old classfellow of mine, to compose a couplet on the lines of Ghalib's couplet.

*Qaid-i-Hayat-o-bande Gham aul men donon ek hain,
Maut se pahle admi Gham se nijat pae kion*

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): My Honourable friend asked me to compose a couplet, and here it is:

*Rishwat-o-kantral ko aul men ek janen
Daur yeh kangras ka hai phir koi chain pai kion.*

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I do not like control only in the case of imports and exports, but I do like it anywhere—may be in the rationing of food, cloth, or anything. But once you have accepted the principle of controls in the consideration stage, then you have to accept all the consequences which follow. If you have accepted that control should exist, then you will have to accept logical consequences. Sir, most of the businessmen who will come to deal with him will be millionaires and multi-millionaires who can afford to fight a case for years and years and who would be prepared to spend any amount of money, and on the other side there will be a poor man with fixed income who in these days is a pauper. Then his life will not be worth living. If you do not protect him in the manner that is provided in this clause very few persons will be willing to accept this post and carry on their duties with honesty and with a conscience, because nobody would be able to face millionaires if in peace-time he is to be dragged to the law court. If you introduce this thing then the protection of the officers is necessary against the litigation and against all kinds of dragging to law courts by means of these multimillionaires who will be on the other side. This man with a fixed income has to deal with persons for whom money is no consideration. They are prepared for very small matters to spend lakhs and the life of this man will become a hell. Either he will not be able to exercise control and he will say ditto to any demand made by these businessmen or he will give up his job. If you want a proper exercise of his responsibility the protection of the officers is necessary against those persons who will force him to adopt mal-practices which none of the officers may like to do. Once you have accepted the control and you have swallowed the big pill, now do not object to eat the flies and little things.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly, Non-Muhammadan Rural). I wish to support Mr. Bhargava in trying to make a plea for the individual liberties of the ordinary citizen as against the encroachment of it by the bureaucracy in its administration. I also agree with him that *Droit Administratif* should have a place in the jurisprudence of our country. On a last occasion in a parallel legislation of this kind when such a saving clause was sought to be incorporated, I raised a feeble objection, saying that the phrase "in good faith done, or intended to be done" did not sound well and the phrase "intended to be done" may as well be dropped. You said that it was very common in all legislation and I did not want to pursue the matter further, because it was not so much an act which was penal in its nature as this is. I wish to draw the attention of the House to Clause 5 which is a penal clause incorporated in this Act on the strength of acts done in good faith or intended to be done in good faith. As my learned friend Mr. Bhargava pointed out, if these words are added it would make a very great inroad on individual liberties. Good faith has been defined in different statutes in the law of this country. One is the penal code. Good faith is defined to be that which is done with due care and intention. I might be very good yet to do an act without due care and attention. Yet the law will say that I have not done it in good faith. There is the General Clauses Act which applies in regard to civil law. There, if I did a particular act in "good faith", I did it honestly. Having incorporated a penal clause here, if good faith is not properly defined, then there will be difficulty, because if it is not done with due care and attention. I cannot understand a saving clause being included. If a person does not do it with due care and attention let the officer take the consequences. Supposing it is a case where a penal clause is not included and at the same time a civil protection is given to the officer. He might say after having done an act without due care and attention, even after having done it dishonestly, he may say "I did it honestly." So I plead that this saving clause in section 7 ought to be omitted. In all these matters the ordinary law is clear. It is not because a lawyer wants to take his fee and argue that way, but because individual liberty is much more sacred than

the protection of the administration. That comes only second. The individual liberty has to be safeguarded first. What the law wants to do is to safeguard the individual from the encroachment of legislation. What I would say is that we should take a broader view. In every legislation now this sort of saving clause is being introduced and that is a bad precedent. It gives a lot of power in the hands of the administration. The power is already there. It enlarges the power. It takes away the safeguard the ordinary citizen has got. If we cannot go and agitate in a court of law, what is the protection for the ordinary citizen. Especially in clause 7 a citizen may be punished with imprisonment. It is a very tall order. If he is liable to be imprisoned, he should have the liberty to go into a court of law and say that the officer may have behaved badly.

You made another observation, which I am afraid I have to say I was not able to comprehend. You compared clause 4 with clause 7 and drew attention to this, namely, "all orders made under rule 84 of the Defence of India Rules shall continue in force and be deemed to have been made under this Act," and I think you tried to draw a parallel between the phrase "deemed to have been made under this Act" in Clause 4 and a similar phrase in Clause 7. That I believe was your intention. In clause 7 what is intended is this. The action that is deemed to have been made under this Act may be a future action. That is to say, in clause 4 an action which was taken under the Defence of India Act as deemed to be made under this Act after the Defence of India Act has expired, that is to legalise past acts. Under clause 7 an order which is made or deemed to have been made under this Act shall be valid. Then the officer might yesterday have done an Act absolutely beyond the scope of this particular statute. But he might say "I deemed to have done it under this Act. I did it under the misapprehension that I did it under this Act." There may be an act which may be *ultra vires* of the statute. An officer might say, "I did it under section so and so, and I deemed it as done under this Act." That I submit will be the very wide interpretation of what has been mentioned by the Commerce Member and I suggest that a suitable modification is made and an ordinary citizen is protected.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am surprised how one after the other these Bills are coming before us as being only the ghost of the Defence of India Act. I am obliged to wonder whether we are still living in war times or whether we have past war times and we are trying to live in peace times.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Between two wars!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I wish to know who actually framed this Bill if it is not a State secret. I am sure it cannot be the Honourable Member. If it had been, the conscience of the Honourable Member himself coming from a province where he was obliged to be in a minority in a Legislature, would have rebelled against this clause 7. If he really had scrutinised the Bill and yet his conscience had not rebelled against it, there must be something wrong with my Honourable friend and I would advise him to consult a doctor.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Not you?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I was shocked at the attitude of my Honourable friend Dr. Zin Uddin Ahmad. He has told us that controls and corruption go together. He is opposed to all controls. He now comes here and says that we should further strengthen the hands of these officials who are obliged to become corrupt because of these controls, by making them completely immune from any sort of action either in courts or elsewhere. That certainly is harmony with the usual inconsistency that my Honourable friend has been suffering from for a long time!

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

I am very sorry, Sir, to have to disagree with my Pathan friend, Khan Abdul Ghani Khan. He says "Why do you think of any liberties at all?" I can understand that from him, because he is a Pathan: he believes in the sword and not in courts of law. But we poor people cannot very well resort to the sword every time we get angry with anybody else. When somebody has done an injustice to us we are obliged to go to a court of law and behave in a peaceful and law-abiding manner.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: I did not say that liberty was unnecessary. I only said that the very fact that law is a surrender of liberty, a really free man is a man without any law.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am glad that my Honourable friend has answered himself and therefore I need not labour his point.

Here comes the point. If you make an officer so very immune from any consequences of his act, what is likely to be the effect of such immunity on his mind? He becomes a law unto himself, a miniature Hitler.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am amused.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He will find that it is not going to be such an amusement. My Honourable friend will not even be allowed to remain as Vice Chancellor of the Aligarh University. That officer will send him to jail straight-away and there will be no appeal at all against him. Certainly he becomes a miniature Hitler or Mussolini and there is no appeal against him. Then my Honourable friend, the Member for Commerce, will not be able to control his own officers. He might try to control them in regard to the future by giving instructions but where is the guarantee that they will carry out those instructions? They are already permanent officials. If they cannot be kept in one place they have got to be sent somewhere else and they are absolutely safe. My Honourable friend Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad said that they are a poor people and are paid only very small salaries. Therefore they have got to be protected. On the other hand, the public has got to be protected against the menace of these officials. There is Section 80 of the Civil Procedure Code to protect these public officials. If I were to prosecute any gazetted officer, I have got to obtain the permission of the Government. The Government then has a chance of looking into the case and see whether that officer has really committed any blunder at all, whether it is a *bona fide* blunder and whether it would not be the duty of the Government itself to defend him

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: May I know what provision of the law the Honourable Member is referring to?

Mr. President: Let us not go deep into the provisions of law. The Honourable Member is not a lawyer.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Section 197 of the Criminal Procedure Code

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Therefore it does not matter which particular number the section of the Code is. I would advise my Honourable friend to go to Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava. Let him contradict me if I am wrong, whether I should not have to obtain the previous permission of the Government before I can prosecute anyone of his gazetted officers. I do not know whether I would have to take all that trouble in order to prosecute my Honourable friend. I certainly have to ask the previous permission of the Government for prosecuting any of his officers and therefore the Government will have a chance of protecting its own officers. The resources of the Government are certainly greater than those of any Birla, Ispahani or any capitalist. Therefore my Honourable friend Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad need not be afraid of the power of these capitalists.

My Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava has put in a very eloquent and bold plea against this section. He has quoted Burke. I can quote Laski and there is also Lord Hewett who has written a book called "The New Tyranny". Who

are these officers? Do we have any direct control over them. We have no control at all. We can take the Honourable Member to task, we can hold him responsible but we cannot hold his officers responsible for any of their acts, because this particular clause gives them complete liberty to do what they like. As my Honourable friend Mr. Satakopachari said, when you give a man such power as to send *bona fide* traders and others also to prison, should we not give this much power to the ordinary citizen of the country to prosecute these officers for illegal acts, for excessive and arbitrary acts? Therefore, Sir, I very strongly object to this clause. Will corruption abate if this clause were passed by this House. I contend that corruption will increase, because you make it absolutely possible for these officials to do whatever they like. There will be more encouragement to those officials to commit far more blunders than they are committing today and yet feel happy about it, because they would not be brought before a court of law.

There is a large number of us here and I am one of those who have under the arbitrary powers given in this fashion to government officials in this country. It is true that it was in another connection that they utilised these powers but where is the guarantee that these officials will not utilise these powers given in such a light hearted manner by Government? The clause says: "No order made or deemed to have been made under this Act shall be called in question in any court, and no suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or any order made or deemed to have been made thereunder." The High Court has no control over them, neither the Federal Court nor the Privy Council. Who is going to judge that the man has done anything in good faith?

Mr. President: The court will do it

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The court has no powers here at all.

Mr. President: The court has power. It is not that the jurisdiction of the court is absolutely barred. Unfortunately it is difficult to convince non-lawyer friends about it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The court may come in in some way, through some sort of backdoor by arguing about it as the Calcutta High Court judges had to argue about the Defence of India Act, when so many cases were placed before them and there were on the other side equally clever lawyers to say that the court had no jurisdiction. Therefore no order made can be called in question in any court. There he can pass an order that so and so should not be allowed to import such and such a commodity, having imported it, it should not be brought to the harbour, having brought it to the harbour, it should not be allowed to land there, having landed it, he should not take possession of it, he should not be permitted to take it outside the precincts of the harbour. That order should not in any court of law be called in question. That is the power that my Honourable friend wants to give these officials. It may be possible for my Honourable friend to smile over the whole thing and in a lighthearted and non-challant manner have the Bill passed in this House. But I wish to tell my Honourable friend and his successors that the moral conscience of this country will continue to rebel against this kind of statutory provision.

Mr. President: I might tell the House that I find that almost the same points are practically being repeated. The language may be different and the instances may be different. I do not propose to allow that kind of debate to go on for any length of time over this question. If Honourable Members have any other important points they may place them before the House.

Sreejot Bohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I shall abide by your ruling. Although I did not follow much of what my honourable friend Mr. Bhargava said in Urdu I fully support the position he has taken with regard to this particular clause. My honourable friend Mr. Saritopadhyay has fully shown that there is no meaning in the expression 'intended to be done under this Act'. Sir, lawyers do not like litigation. They do not go to a court of law without being paid for it. The more experience that a lawyer gains the less willing he is to go to a court of law without being paid higher fee for it. It is only the lay man who is fond of going to litigation. In our parts at least, in the frontier areas, tribal feuds go on in which parties kill each other for mere fun without much provocation. Now we are unarmed. We have neither guns nor lathis to use. But our people go to litigation for the mere fun of it. Not only that. They advance money to others for going to court. Lawyers do not encourage such loopholes of legislation as this. The layman tries to interpret law in their own way and the lawyer laughs and tries to improve matters. Sir, I will say with all the emphasis that I can command that these two clauses, clause 4 and clause 7, do not and will not speak either for the capacity of this House to legislate or for the willingness of the champions of people to preserve their liberty. Sir, we had made loud and long complaints against the Defence of India Rules. The Defence of India Act, as far as I know, came to an end in the United Kingdom very soon after the war. Now, the war actually ended in India in 1945. The war ended theoretically in India in April 1946. And today in 1947 we are passing a legislation which is going to perpetuate those orders which are going to give a legal clothing to the orders illegally passed under the Defence of India Rules and which is going to perpetuate the Defence of India Rules. The only feeling that can come to anyone after hearing the arguments, which have been made in support of the Bill either from the Government benches or outside is that we have now to coin a new slogan and that slogan would be 'Long live the Defence of India Rules'.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I have carefully listened to the points urged against clause 7 and I feel that there is some misunderstanding in the minds of some members about the effect of this clause 'deemed to have been made' or to have been passed under the Act. As you rightly mentioned, Sir, those words refer to clause 4. Clause 4 reads thus

"All orders made under rule 84 of the Defence of India Rules or that rule as continued in force by the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, 1945 and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act shall, so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, continue in force and be deemed to have been made under this rule."

It would therefore mean that if any orders under the Defence of India Rules or the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, 1945 are already in force and they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, it will not be necessary to reissue those orders but they will be deemed to have been passed under this Act. Clause 4 only says that it is not necessary to go through that formality and issue those orders again under the provisions of this Act but that those orders, even though issued under the provisions of the Defence of India Rules or the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, 1945, shall be deemed to have been passed under this Act. Therefore there can be two classes of orders, one, fresh orders which can be passed under this Act after it becomes law and another, that class of orders, which were already passed under the provisions of the Defence of India Rules and the Ordinance to which I referred, and which shall be deemed to be continued, if they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act. In order to express this, clause 7 contains these words 'No order made or deemed to have been made under this Act'. There is no catch behind the words 'deemed to have been made thereunder'. They are used only for the purpose of explaining the words mentioned in clause 4.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will not the words 'deemed to have been made' refer to any future order?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Normally they would not, except in a case, I will just mention. Suppose an order is passed under this Act, but the words 'passed under Act so and so of 1947' are omitted, that is, even though the words 'passed under the Act for the purpose of prohibiting imports and Exports, 1947' are not used, it will be deemed to have been passed under this Act provided it is an order under this Act. That is one part of it.

Mr. P. B. Gole: May I know what is meant by the phrase 'intended to be done under this Act'?

Mr. President: I am afraid the discussion will be reopened into a general question of this indemnity clause which finds a place in many Acts.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Clause 7 can be divided into two parts. The first part provides that an order made or deemed to have been made under this Act, shall not be called in question by a court of law. Suppose for every quota given, two, three or four applications are made. If anybody who is dissatisfied with the orders of the officer were to file a suit in a court and pray for an injunction stating that he should receive the quota and not the other person, there may be deadlock. If all these matters are allowed to be taken to a court of law, the actual administration may come to a standstill and there may be a deadlock. It is in order to prevent this that the first part of clause 7 has been provided.

There is the second part. An allegation can be made that the officer decides a case wrongly. If the case is decided rightly then there is no difficulty. A case may be decided wrongly in one of two ways—either the officer acts with due care and attention or he does not. If he acts with due care and attention that is in good faith, then that officer is protected. But if the officer has not acted with due care and attention, a suit can still be filed against him in spite of the provisions of clause 7 in a court of law, and the court before which this suit is filed shall have to determine the question whether the officer has acted in good faith or not. If the act is done in good faith by the officer, the court will say that it has got no jurisdiction.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division. Non-Muhammadan Rural): If I may interrupt the Honourable Member for a minute, Sir, as you yourself said that the 'courts' jurisdiction is not excluded he is making the same plea. I want clarification on this point—suppose an order has been made in bad faith. If you think that the court will go into that question, then why do you want the first part of the section "No order will be called in question in any court"? If at all you give anything by the right hand you at once take it away by the left hand.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: If a suit is filed for damages against an officer and it is proved that the officer has not acted in good faith, even under the provisions of this clause, a suit will be taken cognizance of.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: It is entirely wrong.

Mr. President: Order, order.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That is the meaning of the words used here "against any person for anything in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act". If it is not done in good faith then he would still be liable, whereas if it is done in good faith he is not liable.

Lastly I may mention this. My Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava referred to the question of corruption and he mentioned that there are so many allegations made in the lobbies. I appeal to him once again as I have done

[Mr. I. I. Chandigarh]

in the past—why not bring those instances to my notice when I actually promise that action will take in the matter? What is the use of making these allegations in the lobbies and not putting the matters before officers or the

Members of Government who will take action in the matter? I think it is very unfair—to make vague allegations without bringing forward any instances. (Interruption) If the Act is to be worked, this clause is very necessary and I think Mr. Abdul Ghami Khan put the matter tersely but to the point that if you want the officers to administer the Act efficiently you must indemnify them and give them protection if they act in good faith, otherwise work will be impossible.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I say one word? We have heard the arguments. We have not been convinced. Take the advice of the Advocate General asking him to clarify the legal position, as, in cases of bad faith, really there will be no action available.

Mr. President: It is not my function to advise the Government, nor is it to convince the Honourable Member but I do see as a lawyer, subject, of course, to my being mistaken, that the view which the Honourable Member has taken is a mistaken one. He is contending the validity of an order with the protection to be given to an officer. Though under the first part, the order will be final by not being challenged, in the court, if the order is in bad faith, the officer will not get protection from damages to the person against whom that is made. It is all a question of interpretation. I do not think I can convince any Honourable Member of this House to take a view with which he is not inclined to agree from the beginning. I will now put the clauses to the House.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: That is my misfortune. Clause 7 may be put separately.

Mr. President: The question is—

That clauses 4, 5 and 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 4, 5 and 6 were added to the Bill.

Mr. President: The question is—

“That clause 7 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: Sir, I move:

“That in sub-clause (3) of clause 1 of the Bill, for the words “a period of three years only”, the following be substituted, namely:

“a period of one year, provided that the Central Government may by notification in the official Gazette direct that it shall remain in force for a further period not exceeding two years.”

The only difference between myself and a number of Honourable Members on my left is that while I have proposed a number of amendments and have put them, they have proposed a number of amendments and have not put them. Another slight difference is that whereas they have criticised the Bill very severely in a number of cases they have not carried this criticism into effect.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

The only thing that now remains is to see whether we cannot make the duration of this Bill rather shorter. The Bill to my mind is unsatisfactory. It includes a number of lacunae which to my mind constitute bad legislation.

It is true that the Honourable the Commerce Member will always come forward with the argument—"Can you imagine that an officer will misapply this legislation. Surely you don't think that a responsible officer will misapply this law."

This is an argument which permits this House to pass inefficient legislation in the hope that the officers of the various services in this country will interpret it in the proper way. The Commerce Member has frequently agreed that in certain instances he will issue certain instructions. In certain instances he has laid down how this Bill will be applied. I am grateful to him for doing that but I am bound to point out that the mere fact that it is necessary for him to do this shows that certain portions of the Act should be capable of improvement.

Now, Sir, I want to carry on the argument for and against the extension of the time. The Honourable the Commerce Member has said before that if the need for this Bill disappears, the clauses of the Bill will not be applied. In other words, if after one year he finds no need to apply any of these restrictions, the Bill will become a dead-letter because it will not be used. That, if he will forgive me for saying so, is a specious argument. In my opinion and in the opinion, I think, of a lot of Honourable Members of this House the fact that controls exist means that controls will be exercised. I won't labour that point but will merely suggest that the amendment which I have put forward gives Government all the powers they have under the present Bill but makes it necessary for them to review the situation at the end of one year. If my amendment is not accepted, there is no need to review the situation at all. They can go straight ahead, leave the Bill as it is, have restrictions, here and restrictions there, which may be restrictions to deal with the exception rather than restrictions to deal with a broad necessity. That is what I am afraid of. If the Commerce Member will again permit me, I think in defending his attitude regarding certain of the amendments that have been put up today, he has quoted exceptions rather than general reasons why he cannot accept these amendments. He said, "Supposing we have to stop South Africa sending goods to this country, or supposing we have to stop the Dutch sending goods to Indonesia"—that I suggest, is legislating for the exception and not legislating for a general need. That is why, Sir, I suggest that the period of this Bill should be reduced in accordance with my amendment. The amendment will not necessarily alter the fact that these provisions will be in force for three years. The Government will have the option under this amendment at the end of one year to say that the terms must go on for some time longer. But I do ensure by my amendment that the matter will be carefully considered at the end of one year and that, Sir, is the best that I can do after a somewhat uncompromising attitude on the part of the Commerce Member, an attitude which, I must say, he has maintained with peculiar success for two days.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved.

"That in subclause (3) of clause 1 of the Bill, for the words 'a period of three years' the following be substituted, namely

'a period of one year, provided that the Central Government may by notification in the official Gazette direct that it shall remain in force for a further period not exceeding two years'."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce): Sir, I regret I am under the necessity of having to disapprove of the amendment put forward by my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson. In putting forward this amendment he says that all that he wants is that the Government should consider it at the end of one year. If he were to put forward the idea that this matter must be brought to this House and the sanction of this House should be taken after one year to the continuance of these laws, he would have greater sympathy from some of us, because then he would be enforcing the

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

principle that this Government is acting under the authority which it derives from this House and is not afraid to bring in as often as you like the authority which they want to exercise for being confirmed by this House. But that is not his amendment. All he says is that Government should consider it at the end of one year and if, after consideration, they thought it necessary they should say that the operation of this measure should be extended for two years. Now, Sir, that pre-supposes that this Government will act in a particular manner. I am sorry there was a slight misunderstanding yesterday and my friends thought that I was putting a wrong interpretation. But I have no desire whatsoever to misinterpret the views which they have. But taking logically and properly what is suggested here is this, that this Government must consider at the end of one year. I am sure it is not implied by my Honourable friend, but is it implied, may I ask, whether this Government will continue these powers even if there is no necessity for them and even if they are satisfied that no longer a situation exists when the exercise of these powers will be necessary? Is it implied that this Government will not consider it of their own accord if they were not tied down by the letter of the law of this House? I feel that this implies a certain amount of faith in the wisdom and the desire for doing the lawful and the proper things on the part of this Government.

Now, Sir, taking the situation of the world as it is we are in the third year after the war. It is frequently said in this House "Is the situation in the world improved? Are we anywhere nearer normal times?" Can anybody prophesy with any confidence the happenings of either political or economic or international issues in the next twelve months? Is it not a fact that in some parts of the world people are already talking about the third war? The more timid ones see, as the outcome of what is happening in the world, that the third war is no far off. Apart from the third war the international wranglings, the famines, the difficulties of production, the labour trouble, strikes, the riots, the unsettlement and the inflation which in our country is a very serious problem, the expectation that economic matters will be sufficiently settled in the course of the next twelve months is not likely to be there. I believe that the occasions for exercising stricter controls will gradually abate and I am sure the Honourable Commerce Member will give an assurance to this House that as and when they abate, powers will not be unduly exercised and that risk will be taken even in ordinary trading matters to err on the side of non-exercise rather than of exercise. But, Sir, taking the international situation, the exchange situation the shipping situation and the efforts made by hostile nationals and hostile groups to try and pass on a kick on this country, there may be people in this world who will think that this country is free as a new country and the administrations there do not know and therefore they shall be able to get over us. Supposing there are efforts of this kind, must not this Government have adequate powers to deal with the situation as and when it arises? Will it not arise after twelve months? If they thought that it was necessary to continue these powers it would not be possible for them to do so under Mr. Lawson's amendment. This shows a certain amount of distrust of this Government. I trust this House will not accept this amendment.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The reply on the amendment has been given by Mr. Subedar and I have very little to add. I mentioned this point during the general discussion of this Bill. I then stated that several orders are being reconsidered every fortnight or sometimes even every week and the position relating to each commodity on the export and import side comes up for review either on some occasion or another before the department. When it is found that it is no longer necessary to impose any control then the control is withdrawn. I also told the House that even when control is withdrawn, sometimes it becomes necessary to reimpose it. Therefore it is not

possible to say how long these powers will be necessary and therefore it is provided that the life of the Bill shall be three-years. But that does not mean that every order issued under this Act, when it becomes law, will be valid for three years and that it will not be withdrawn during that period if circumstances justify it.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (3) of clause 1 of the Bill, for the words 'a period of three years only', the following be substituted, namely—

'a period of one year, provided that the Central Government may by notification in the official Gazette direct that it shall remain in force for a further period not exceeding two years'."

The motion was negatived

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 1 was added to the Bill

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed"

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, I should like to offer on my own behalf as well as on behalf of the House, our congratulations to the Honourable the Commerce Member for having so successfully piloted the Bill through the House. I should also like to offer him my thanks, and I am sure I voice the feelings of all sections of the House when I say this, for the great courtesy and patience with which he has listened to us all and in his own way tried to meet our point of view. Sir, this Bill looked an apparently innocent one and it was certainly a small one, but it has kept us busy for a long time in the House discussing its provisions and it almost brought us to a situation with which we seemed to have been faced when the Defence of India Act itself was being discussed. But for the fact and patience of the Honourable Member, we might not have seen the end of the Bill even today.

When, however, the Honourable Member makes his final speech before the Bill is enacted into law, I should like him kindly to meet the two points raised by me in the course of the debate, namely what steps will he take to prevent monopolies (*An honourable member:* And corruption) I will not dilate on corruption, because it is an ugly word and I am assured by the Honourable Member that nothing of the sort exists. But I am against monopolies and I should be glad to be assured by the Honourable Member that under his scheme, no monopolies would be created and that trade would be allowed to regain its natural channels and that proper men will be in proper place without being hectorated or bullied by those in governmental authority. The other small question which also I was trying to press and the reply to which I could not catch, if my Honourable friend gave it, is what would happen to the goods that would be confiscated by him that have been clandestinely brought or illegally attempted to be brought into the country. What is going to happen to those goods? That is what we want to know. I do not want that unnecessary hardship should be inflicted on any one, though of course we do not want any goods from South Africa. Would the Honourable Member be prepared to issue elaborate instructions to officials so that they may exercise proper discretion about controls or in permitting persons to pay fines in lieu of confiscation? We are not overfond of officials in the land. That is an unfortunate thing. But it is there. So long as that feeling exists, it is up to the Government so to act that no legitimate cause may arise for such feelings to persist. I

hope, Sir, that under the sympathetic management of the department by the Honourable Member, all its evils will be eliminated and only the good will remain.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I wanted to have control over speeches as well. I will take only a few minutes. My Honourable friend Shri Sri Prakasa pointed out his difficulties, the difficulties of monopoly. I pointed out in the beginning that there were three enemies to our trade, first combines, second monopoly and third hoarding. So in order to have free trade our Government have to face all these difficulties. I am sure the Honourable Member would rise to the occasion and face all the difficulties which are enemies to free trade. I see my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga is not here. I reserve for some other occasion when he will be present, to offer my remarks regarding his point. I do not like to say anything in the absence of the Honourable Member. I might take the occasion of the Finance Bill to say something about his speech delivered in connection with clause 7 of the Bill. The next thing is that though I do not like controls, but when once you accept this unpleasant principle, then the consequences which follow should also be accepted. You cannot start with the idea that no control is necessary and then afterwards have recourse to things in which control may become difficult. I should like to put the entire responsibility on Government. If control is to be accepted then I would not like any non-official sharing that responsibility in this particular case. In that case it will become worse. I am quite certain that the Honourable Member would not only look after the difficulties mentioned by Shri Sri Prakasa, namely the difficulties of monopolies but will also see that a few persons should not join together and form a combine. We have in the country a ring of businessmen so that the whole thing is really kept moving about within that particular ring. They all run it in different names, but they all form one particular ring, one combine. This also should be faced. One class of people should not set up groups and should not have the entire monopoly of licence or permits to export and import these articles. The next thing is about hoarding. They should not be allowed to get sufficiently large quantities by import so that they will have opportunity to hoard and sell at a time when there is a dearth of such articles in market, at a high price. If these three enemies are properly checked, then I am sure that the Bill will not have the same unpleasantness as may be expected. Unpleasantness there must be in control, that is unavoidable. If these three things are properly checked and properly supervised, perhaps the unpleasantness will be mitigated to some extent.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, the Commerce Member has been rightly congratulated on the very sporting spirit with which he met the criticisms on the different provisions of this Bill. I also expect him to be sportsmanlike in the matter of the views offered in regard to clause 7. He must have noticed that there was very strong difference of opinion. I do not claim that the views we expressed were infallible and I hope he also will not claim that his own views are infallible. It is a matter that has to be investigated. After all it is not a matter of mere technical interpretation of the law but of putting a premium on dishonesty of officials. Merely saying that officials are not dishonest will not make them honest. At the same time I believe that there should be some protection given to officials against frivolous prosecutions and accusations. But the way in which the clause has been worded practically serves as a steel helmet for all dishonest officials. Unfortunately the Honourable President is not here just now, he offered his own opinion and that was very much to the advantage of the Commerce Member. But now that the Bill is being passed with the inclusion of clause 7, I would request the Honourable Member to have the matter examined by the proper authorities. If he is reassured in the position that his view is correct, we shall be glad to be told that we are wrong. But if he finds that there are some loopholes for

dishonest officials to escape he should take the earliest opportunity to come before the House for having such modifications as are called for. In the meantime he should make it very clear to the department and the officials that Government's intention is not to give any protection in cases of manifest bad faith, and that if such cases are found to have occurred the people will be dealt with properly. Even today in spite of the long rope given to officials by virtue of the Defence of India Rules we have seen some cases in Bengal where some of the highest officers, officers who were supposed to be incorruptible in the previous days, were found to have gone to the depths of degradation, and some such cases saw the light of day. And if Government at that time could not bring to book a large number of such officials it was because at a time when the empire was tottering Government did not care whether officials were honest or dishonest but were interested merely in winning the war. Therefore the bulk of dishonest officials went scot-free, and it was only some dishonest people who on account of a somewhat smaller stock of intelligence in them exposed themselves. But this Government should be entirely different, and I hope it will be possible for the Commerce Member to give an assurance to this House, and through this House to the people outside and to the officials concerned that just as *bona-fides* will be protected similarly anything wrong will be attacked by all possible means.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Sir, I thank my Honourable friends Mr. Sri Prakasa and Mr. Sanyal for the compliment they paid to me. I can assure them that one of the first inquiries which I made on taking charge of the Commerce Department was whether there were any monopolies. There are no monopolies in the Commerce Department and in future also none will be allowed to be created. That is an assurance which I can unreservedly give to my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa.

On the second point mentioned by him *i.e.*, what is to happen to the goods confiscated for a breach of the provisions of the Sea Customs Act or this new law, the answer is very plain. If certain goods are ordered to be confiscated to Government, they become the property of Government and Government can utilise them in any manner that they think best. They might in particular cases dispose them off in the country, in others they may take another view and ask them to be taken back to some other place or they may pass any other suitable order for their disposal. But once the goods are ordered to be confiscated, they cease to be the property of the importer and Government become the owner of the goods and they can pass such orders as they think proper, looking to the circumstances and to the use which can be made of the goods.

Then my Honourable friend Mr. Sanyal referred again to his views about the interpretation of clause 7. From my little practice at the bar—and also according to the Honourable President who was an eminent member of the Ahmedabad bar—I can assure him that we feel that our reading is correct. But for his satisfaction, and not for mine, I am prepared to have the case re-examined.

Then he said that honest officers should be protected and clause 7 should rightly give them protection in cases in which they have acted in good faith, namely, with due care and caution; but in other cases there should be no protection. I am prepared to make a public declaration in this House that any officer in the Commerce Department who is found to be corrupt shall not be spared and that strong action will be taken against him.

I feel, Sir, that this legislation is very necessary at the present moment when due to the combination of several factors we are in a stage of transition from war time economy to peace time economy. And without the powers which this Bill purports to confer on Government it will be impossible to main-

tain the economy of the country. These powers are essential and Government will take every care to see that the powers are not abused.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA RENT CONTROL BILL

M. B. K. Gokhale: (Government of India, Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

'That the Bill to make better provision for the control of rents in certain areas in the provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.'

Sir, I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the Honourable Members of this House who served on the Select Committee and who laboured very hard and considerably improved the Bill. The Select Committee sat on a large number of occasions and both while we were sitting in Committee and while we were outside, they must have been inundated with numerous representations from all quarters. I think it was very brave of them to go through that ordeal and make all the useful amendments which are now before the House.

Sir, I would now like to explain a few of the important changes which have been made in the Select Committee. But before doing so, I would like to refer to the cardinal point on which I had stress when presenting this Bill to the Select Committee, that nothing that we did here should in any way discourage private house building activities, because that after all is the real solution to the problem of acute shortage of housing in Delhi. It is not rent control which is going to provide the solution, rent control is only a palliative, a temporary measure; the real and ultimate solution is private house building activity. So perhaps I had better begin by explaining what we have done on this point. The Select Committee has made it perfectly clear that nothing in this Bill shall apply to any premises the construction of which is completed after the commencement of this Act, i.e. any buildings which will be completed hereafter will be entirely exempt from any of the provisions of this Act, whether as regards the amount of rent to be charged or as regards eviction of tenants or on any other question. The relationship of landlord and tenant as regards these new buildings will be solely governed by the ordinary law of the land.

Sri S. T. Adityan (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely, Non-Muhammadan Rural): Unless another Bill is introduced.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I cannot vouch whether any such Bill will be introduced, but the present intention is that nothing in this Act should affect new buildings.

Another method by which we have helped to a certain extent in providing incentive to private building activities is by certain amendments to clause 11 by which any vacant sites whether attached to residential buildings or to non-residential buildings will be made available for private building activities.

There is still another way in which I feel that we have encouraged private building activities; and that is by steering a middle course between the conflicting interests of landlords and tenants, by trying to be fair to all concerned and by not taking unfair advantage of the situation. We do not want the landlords to feel that this is an expropriatory measure by which they are being penalized and that possibly after another few years there may be another Bill, as my Honourable friend apprehends, by which building which have now been excluded from the scope of rent control will be again brought under rent control and landlords will be penalized for all the buildings which they put up hereafter. Requisitioning is bad whether it is for Government or on behalf of tenants or sub-tenants, and that is real, what we are up against—we are considering requisitioning not for Government but for tenants and sub-tenants—and therefore it is very necessary that we should steer a middle course and see that the landlords do not feel that they have been unduly penalized. That Sir, I feel is our biggest contribut-

sion to encouragement of private buildings. I would like to emphasise that the Bill should be judged as a whole against this background.

I will now go on to some other points. The most important, of course, is the question of rent. The original Bill proposed an increase of 83½ per cent. on the previous rent and a further increase of 25 per cent. in the case of business premises. The idea was that landlords should get something substantial in return for all the controls which were going to be placed on their other activities. The Select Committee has fully appreciated this point of view, but has improved on the previous *ad hoc* decision, so to speak, by providing a graded increase in rent. They have kept in view cases of poor tenants who are paying a very low rent, and who also deserve protection. From that point of view and also keeping in mind the increase in the cost of maintenance, repairs and other charges, the Select Committee has given a graded increase in rent, beginning from 2 annas in the rupee where the rent is up to and below Rs. 25 a month; As. -/2/6 per rupee for rent between Rs. 25—Rs. 50, 3 annas in the rupee between Rs. 50—Rs. 100, and 4 annas in the rupee where the monthly rent is over Rs. 100. All this is for residential premises. For non-residential premises, the increase is twice this amount. The increase is over the rent as it existed in 1939—that was a point which was very prominently brought out in this House that the basic rent should be not the rent as it existed in November 1946 but as it existed in 1939—and the Select Committee has accepted that point and given increased rates over that basic period or over the rent as may have been fixed by the Controller, as the case may be. But again we made one very material alteration, and that is that rent which was fixed for the first time after the 2nd June 1944 would remain exactly the same as before. There will be no increase on that rent. The idea behind this is that conditions had changed by the 2nd June 1944. The housing problem had already become acute and buildings which were let out for the first time after June 1944 must have been let out at a higher rent, and therefore there is no justification for any further increase on the rent fixed after June 1944. This is with regard to Delhi.

Now, Sir, I come to Ajmer-Merwara. I have seen some criticism in some quarters that the graded increase in rent for Ajmer-Merwara is slightly higher than for Delhi. For that proposition, there is no justification whatsoever. The graded increase in rent for Ajmer-Merwara is slightly lower in the lower categories. For instance, up to Rs. 25, the increase in rent in Ajmer-Merwara is only 1½ anna in the rupee against 2 annas in Delhi, between Rs. 25—Rs. 50 the increased rate in Ajmer-Merwara is 2 annas in the rupee against As. -/2/6 in Delhi. On other points, there is no difference in the manner in which we have treated Delhi and the manner in which we have treated Ajmer-Merwara. We were told in this House that the Ajmer-Merwara Control Order which was issued in November 1946 had given general satisfaction, and that there were no complaints against that order. The Select Committee very rightly decided that we should embody in this Bill the percentages as laid down in that Order, of course with slight modifications. I hope that this decision will give general satisfaction.

I now come to the next important question, or rather the most important question judging from the number of amendments which have been tabled in this House—I mean the question of eviction. Here a large number of amendments was made in the Select Committee, and I have no doubt that the matter will again be vehemently discussed on the floor of this House and I expect that a few more improvements and modifications might be made. The position of Government, as I explained on the very first day when I moved for reference to Select Committee, was that they were only committed to the principle of rent control, but would be guided on all other matters by the wishes of the Select Committee and the wishes of the House. That posi-

[Mr. B. K. Gokhale.]

tion still remains the same. Now on this question of eviction, the main point which engaged our attention was of course the question of sub-letting. Should we stick to the letter of the law and make a large number of people who are at present living in Delhi homeless? Should we drive out all these people and leave them either to quit Delhi or go and stay under trees or make some other *bandobast*? The Select Committee rightly decided that so far as sub-letting was concerned, whatever had happened so far should be validated, that nobody who had taken a sub-lease of residential premises should be evicted, whether the landlord had agreed to the sub-lease or whether he had not. We decided that this Bill should definitely say that nobody should be evicted from residential premises. As a necessary corollary, the Select Committee has made certain amendments by which in all such cases, the landlord will be able to get a slight recompense in the shape of extra rent. The Select Committee has recommended that the landlord should be allowed to get increased rent for the portions sub-let, at the rate of two annas in the rupee and I think that is a very fair solution of this very difficult problem.

The question of giving protection to the sub-tenant as against the tenant naturally cropped up and the Select Committee decided that where the sub-tenant is being charged extortionate rent, that rent must be reduced. They have laid down that the tenant may only charge the sub-tenant 25 per cent more than what he is paying to the landlord for the portion sub-let. This really means that the sub-tenant has now been given a double protection. He is not going to be liable for eviction and his rent will be limited to 25 per cent over and above the rent which the tenant is paying for the portion which has been sub-let. Out of this 25 per cent of course, half goes to the landlord and half goes to the tenant. That, I think, Sir, is a very fair solution.

Now, having validated sub-leases up to date, the next two questions were: What shall we do about people who had parted with the entire building, or the entire premises; *i.e.*, sub-let or transferred the entire tenancy? There the Committee decided that no such cases should be recognised: that where the entire tenancy has changed hands, the tenant should be evicted. The same decision was reached as regards the future: that in future no sub-letting should be allowed except with the consent of the landlord.

I will not go into future details on this point. There are only five minutes left and I wish to finish my opening remarks today so that we may get on quickly with this Bill.

I would next like to mention one other provision, namely, the provision for repairs. There have been numerous complaints that landlords have been neglecting repairs and that many buildings are now in a very insanitary condition: they are almost uninhabitable. We have included a provision by which the responsibility for repairs is laid fairly and squarely on the landlord. And there is also a provision that if the landlord neglects these repairs, a tenant can himself cause the repairs to be effected and deduct from the rent payable to the landlord an amount not exceeding one month's rent in any particular year.

The clause about penalties has also been tightened up. There was a persistent demand in this House for provision of imprisonment and the demand has been met. The Honourable Members will no doubt be glad to see that the Select Committee has tightened up this clause and considerably enhanced the penalties which could be imposed. And rightly enough we have not limited these penalties to landlords. The penalty clause is all-embracing and includes landlords and tenants who take *pugree* or any illegal rents or exactions. It also includes tenants who want to be bribed for relinquishing their tenancies. Even that evil we have tried to meet as far as possible.

Next we come to the question of litigation. The original provision was for reference to Civil Court. The Select Committee felt that that would be too dilatory and as this is a temporary measure, it was better to provide a more expeditious method of dealing with cases arising under this Act. The Select Committee has therefore decided that all suits and anything else arising out of this Act, should be dealt with by a Court of Small Causes. I hope there may be no difficulty in having the necessary number of Small Cause Court Judges in Delhi and Ajmere-Merwara and that the procedure now proposed will be found satisfactory and expeditious by all concerned. I must confess that I feel very diffident about the absence of any provision for appeal, particularly in respect of eviction cases. But I notice that there is definitely an amendment for provision of appeal to the District Judge particularly in all cases of eviction, and I hope when this amendment comes up before this House, it will probably be accepted by all concerned.

The only other point to which I need refer is the much debated clause 11 under which Government wanted power to take leases of vacant premises . . .

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member may continue his speech to-morrow.

**INCOME-TAX AND EXCESS PROFITS TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL
[PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE]**

Mr. Deputy President: The Finance Member will now present his Select Committee report as promised in the morning.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 20th March, 1947.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 20th March 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar, in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

INDIAN TROOPS IN JAPAN

1058. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state the number of Indian troops sent to Japan for occupation?

(b) Is it a fact that they are being recalled?

(c) How much cost is being debited to India in connection with this occupation?

(d) How does this figure compare with the amount of reparations from Japan, which is proposed to be given to India?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The total number of Indian troops sent to Japan as part of the Occupation Forces is 11,414.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have decided to withdraw the Indian Occupation Forces from Japan as soon as this can be arranged in consultation with His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth Governments concerned.

(c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to part (b) of starred question No. 635 answered on the 27th February 1947.

(d) The amount of India's share of reparations from Japan has not yet been determined.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will my Honourable friend tell this House what is the position of India with reference to the Imperial Defence Council and whether the original decision to send this contingent to Japan was not taken independently of the Government of India and the Government of India merely concurred in it?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I think I replied to this on a previous question, that the Government of India were asked whether they would like to participate in the occupation of Japan and the Government of India replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable the Defence Secretary has said that the decision of the Government of India to recall this contingent from Japan is there but it is now being taken in consultation with His Majesty's Government and with the governments of the Dominion countries. I want to know what is the relation and to what extent India is tied down to this Imperial Defence Council and whether the recent changes in the constitution have not made any difference in the hold which the Imperial Defence Council has over defence matters of this country.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The British Commonwealth Occupation Forces are treated as one Force for the purposes of occupation and obviously when one party to the agreement desires to withdraw its contingent, it should consult the other parties concerned.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I was not raising the issue of the recall of this particular contingent from Japan but I was raising the general issue. What is the present position of India with reference to the Imperial Defence Council and what are their powers over defence matters in India which in the past were absolute. Have those powers been modified?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I am not prepared to discuss that question today. It does not arise out of the question under reply.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that in the vocabulary of the Government of India "as soon as" may mean anything, could the Honourable Member fix a target date for the recall of our troops from Japan?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: "As soon as" means as soon as practicable. It is difficult to fix a date.

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: How many of the troops in Japan are Indian officers of the rank of Major and above?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Has the expense incurred on the maintenance of the Indian troops in Japan any bearing upon the right to get and also on the extent of the reparations that India will get from Japan?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: No direct bearing, Sir. It is the Honourable Member who put the question in that way and therefore I have tried to answer that it is not possible to indicate the extent of reparations which India is likely to receive from Japan.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Would the amount of reparations tally with the amount of loss actually sustained by our Nationals and would they also have some vindictive value?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I cannot give that information. Reparations is not a subject which is dealt with in the Defence Department.

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: Is it a fact that not a single battalion commander in Japan is an Indian?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I have no information at the moment as to the number of battalions commanded by Indian officers.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Has any reparation been demanded from Japan on account of the damages done to the civilian population of Imphal and Kohima and the Nagas?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: As I said, the Defence Department does not deal with the question of reparations.

DEMobilIZATION OF INDIAN TROOPS STATIONED ABROAD.

1059. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state the steps that have been taken to increase the speed of demobilisation?

(b) Is it a fact that demobilization has been slower with regard to Indian troops abroad than with regard to Indian troops in India?

(c) What is the total number of Indian troops abroad and what is the number of those who will be ultimately recalled and demobilised?

(d) Which part of the expenditure on such troops abroad is being borne by India and how much?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The Commander-in-Chief has drawn the personal attention of all the Army Commanders to the necessity for demobilising by the 31st March 1947 every soldier who does not wish to serve after that date and for taking all possible action to get as near the target as possible. The progress of demobilisation has been kept under constant review by the Commander-in-Chief, the Honourable the Defence Member and the Cabinet and any tendency to slow down has been investigated immediately.

(b) There is no separate demobilization scheme for troops overseas since all men due for demobilization are withdrawn to India and released through their Regimental Centres. The Indian Army as a whole will be progressively reduced to its interim strength.

(c) It is not possible to give exact figures as the strength is being constantly reduced. It does not at the moment exceed 80,000. According to present plans all of them will be ultimately recalled and included in the demobilization programme.

(d) No expenditure on troops abroad is borne by India except that on the Indian contingent of the British Commonwealth Occupational Forces in Japan.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that India does not bear the charges for the Indian troops abroad, have Government examined the suggestion that surplus British troops in India may be sent abroad and Indian troops brought back to India, so that the British troops may do the overseas duty?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The disposal of surplus British troops in India is the concern of H M G in the U K

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is not demobilisation going on also with respect to certain sections of the British troops in India?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Demobilisation has been going on in accordance with the age and service group scheme

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered whether this process of recalling Indian troops from abroad cannot be accelerated by accelerating the process of demobilisation of British troops in this country and thus a mutual convenience established?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The disposition of British troops outside India is not the concern of the Government of India. We are only concerned with the troops, British and Indian, in India. I do not propose to go this morning into the question of the withdrawal of British troops from this country because it does not directly arise out of this question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will not my Honourable friend give us the reasons and causes why Government have not considered the proposal which I am making?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Which proposal, Sir?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Of accelerating the demobilisation of British troops in this country so as to secure accelerated recall of Indian troops from abroad.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Indian troops abroad except in Japan are paid for by H M G and are not a liability on the Government of India. As regards troops in Japan the Government of India have already decided to withdraw them as soon as it possibly can be arranged.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered that Indian troops are not mercenaries to be used for British purposes in different parts of the world? Even if they are paid for by British will the Honourable Member not take into account the feelings which I believe all parts of the House maintain on the immediate recall of Indian troops?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Exactly so, Sir. I announced only the other day the policy of the Government of India in regard to the withdrawal of Indian troops stationed in all places outside India, and I made it perfectly clear that their policy was to withdraw these troops from abroad as soon as possible, consistent with certain obligations which the Government of India have undertaken. I also made it perfectly clear that in no country would Indian troops be used to suppress any nationalist movement.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Can a date be put to these obligations which we have incurred during the war? Will it be before the end of this calendar year or the following calendar year?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I said, Sir, they would be withdrawn as soon as possible. I am more optimistic than my Honourable friend seems to think. I think they won't have to continue indefinitely—not even for two years.

1060. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the nature of the control, which the Government of India exercise over the Reserve Bank, which is a private enterprise controlled by shareholders and their Directors?

(b) In what manner do Government make certain that public interest is safeguarded and public policy, as indicated by Government, is fully adopted?

(c) When do Government propose to repeal section 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act?

(d) Did the Reserve Bank consult Government at any time on the matter of the large volume of sterling balances accumulated abroad?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) and (b) In law, certain powers are conferred on the Central Government by the Reserve Bank of India Act which enable the former to exercise a general control over the Reserve Bank, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention in particular to Sections 8(1), 11(1), 17, 30, 51 and 58 of that Act. In practice, the public interest is safeguarded through close consultation and intimate co-operation between the Reserve Bank and the Government of India.

(c) The matter is under the active consideration of Government.

(d) Yes

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable the Finance Minister tell this House when a Bill for the repeal of Section 41, which he promised at the time of the International Monetary Fund discussions, will be brought before this House?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, when I say 'active consideration' I mean it. The Bill is under preparation at the moment.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Does the Honourable Member concede the position that the Reserve Bank is a private enterprise and if so are we to take it seriously that he has entrusted the printing of money to private enterprise?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I would refer the Honourable Member to the Reserve Bank Act and I am sure he will be able to find out what the position is.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know the Honourable Member's opinion as to whether it is or it is not private enterprise?

Mr. President: Questions of opinion cannot be entertained.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I will put it this way. Is it a fact that it is not a private enterprise?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I have referred the Honourable Member to the Act and I have great regard for his intelligence.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether we can put questions about the Reserve Bank on the floor of the House?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I have been answering questions about the Reserve Bank on the floor of the House.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable the Finance Minister tell this House by what steps and at what time he proposes to implement the decision of Government to nationalise the Reserve Bank of India?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I have said that that is the policy, but I am afraid I am not in a position now to say how and when it will be done.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the correspondence referred to in the reply to part (d) of the question between the Reserve Bank and the Government of India, or the gist of it, be made available to the Members of this House?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I am sorry the correspondence between the Reserve Bank and the Government of India is confidential.

CIRCULATION OF NOTE CIRCULATION TO CHECK INFLATION

1061. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether Government are aware that the inflationary tendency is still operating and if so, what anti-inflationary steps Government have taken?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of curtailing the amount of notes in circulation and, if so, how do they propose to proceed with it?

(c) Is it a fact that the bulk of the sterling balances are merely reserves against the notes issued in India?

(d) Will Government lay on the table of the House a statement regarding their policy on the question of inflation and the means, which Government contemplate for checking it?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) and (d) I have already dealt with this question in my reply to the Honourable Member's question on the 13th March and would also invite attention to paragraph 34 of my budget speech.

(b) Government do not consider any forced contraction of the notes in circulation a practicable or desirable step, since the volume of notes in circulation must depend on various factors like public requirements, velocity of circulation, liquidity preference of the general public for the time being, etc. Actually there has been no expansion of currency since June 1946.

(c) It is true that the major portion of the sterling balances are held at present in the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether Government will seriously examine the effect of their cheap money policy with regard to the problem of inflation and see whether such a policy does not encourage inflationary tendencies which it is their objective to check?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I do not agree with the Honourable Member that cheap money policy encourages inflation.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the answer to part (d) of the question could the Honourable Member give us an idea as to the amount of notes that are withdrawn on an average per week and the amount of notes that are printed per week?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: If the House goes down a question to that effect I shall be prepared to answer it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do these sterling balances or the Branch yield any interest at all?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes, Sir. Some part of it does.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the Honourable the Finance Minister has seriously examined this question about cheap money and if not will he please examine it?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, all these matters are under constant examination.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the rate of interest yielded by the sterling securities?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I am afraid I am not in a position to reply to this question offhand.

GRANTS TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

1062. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state under how many heads grants are given to Provincial Governments from Central Funds and what is their volume during the last three years to each province?

(b) Have Government considered the desirability of abolishing different heads, under which money goes from the Centre to the Provinces, and of establishing a single workable formula for such distribution?

(c) When do Government propose to have this question examined and brought upto date in view of the changes in the economic life of the country since the Niemeyer award was made?

(d) Has the Nehru Delegation to Australia made any report and, if so, will Government place it on the table of the House?

(e) Have Government reached any decision on this report?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) A statement giving the information is laid on the table

(b) No, Sir. Some of these grants are prescribed by law while others are determined with reference to the merits of the case and the requirements of the Provinces. It will be impossible to bring all of them under a single formula or a single head.

(c) In view of the impending constitutional changes it is hardly appropriate to undertake an examination at this stage.

(d) and (e) The report of the delegation has been received only very recently and it is under examination. The question of laying it on the table of the House will be considered in due course.

Statement showing grants made to Provinces

(In thousands of rupees)

Province	Head of Account						Total
	Police	Central Road Fund	Civil Defence	Misc Expenses con with War (GMF)	Grants in aid Prov't Govts	Customs (Inte. Duty)	Taxes on Income
				(1943-44)			
Madras	235	1240	7%	317			29250
Bombay	2320	577	31	243			39000
Bengal	54%	418	38999	487		11682	39000
U P	260	1290	752	86	30000		29250
Punjab	1656	953	960	67			15600
Bihar	2755	201	2276	158		968	19500
C P & Berar	633	229	14	317			9750
Assam	75	76	1794	33%	3000	1101	3900
N W F P	5785	113	14	3	10000		1050
Orissa	543	10	1094	140	4000	80	3900
Sind	2707	43	3	53	10500		3900
Coorg	7			19			
Total	22421	5624	4669	2251	57500	13831	195000
							343319

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

2197

Pr	Head of Account					
	Police	Revenue	Defence	M Expenditure on War (GNF)	Grant in aid from Govt	Customs (duty)
Madras	16.23	11.19	74	(1944-45)		
Bombay	10.80	1.18	17.83	17.83		3,98.40
Bengal	6.76	2.38	17.83	17.83		5.31.20
U P	6.69	6.89	97.67	6.01	7.00.00	5.31.20
Punjab	5.48	9.83	6.21	3.36		3,98.40
Bihar	32.61	4.02	8.06	2.23		2,12.48
C P & Berar	6.75	2.02	9.47	9.47		2,65.60
Assam	1.73	1.67	7.01	1.24		1,32.80
N W F P	1.09	41	11	4.31	30.00	53.12
Orissa	6.92	84	9.77	5.09	1,00.00	26.46
Sind	20.90	1.06	17	7.34	40.00	53.12
Coorg	22	11	17	9.9		3.12
				18		7.84
						21
Total	21.34	42.20	3,50.01	2.83	8,70.00	1,49.21
						26,56.00
						43,61.59

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

2193

		(1945-46)							
Madras	17 01	11 17	5 02	16 04				4 31 25	4 80 49
Bombay	9 60	03 4	6	0				5 3 00	6 30 85
Bengal	91 30	10 64	1 16 36	71 8	8 00 00	1 36 3	00		17 31 37
L P	3 11	1 48	3 84	15 61			4 31 3		4 1 29
Punjab	61	3 3	3 7	3 87			30 00		49 54
Bihar	35 88	3 36		1 44		8 77	87 0		3 4 95
C P & Berar	11 44	3 4	1	6 01			1 43		1 64 63
A am	1 3	4 4	7	6 98	30 00	11 33	5 0		1 17 54
N W F P	4 63	33		6	1 00 00		8 5		1 78 46
Orissa	8 69	1 63	14	13 06	40 00	1 01	3 0		1 22 03
S nd	28 90	21	6	66			3 30		38 33
Coorg	23								98
Total	5,230	78 08	1 39 03	1 31 69	9 70 00	1 57 36	28 75 00		46 08 46

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable the Finance Minister give this House information as to the amount of money going out to the different provinces in the total—it is not found in the explanatory memorandum as it is put under different heads. Could we know how much each province received in the total for different purposes and under different heads?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I have got an exhaustive statement here. It gives the total for each province. I am afraid I have not got the whole total for all the provinces together because the questioner wanted to know what was the contribution made to each province. The statement is here and I think my Honourable friend will be able to get the information he wants.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The point on which I desire information is clear. There is 45 crores as grant to provinces provided in the Budget in the next year. In addition to that, I find that under different departments assistance is being given to provinces. I am not objecting to the assistance being given. I want the information on it.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: These are the heads under which assistance is being given—Police, Central Road Fund, Civil Defence, Miscellaneous Expenditure connected with war, Grants in aid to provincial governments, customs like jute duty, Taxes on Income. These are the heads under which grants are given to the provinces, apart from the development grants that are given to the provinces.

Mr. Manu Subedar: On all these heads, what is the total of each province?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: If it is desired, I will just add up and let the Honourable Member know.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Do the Central Government exercise the function of a supervising authority in the matter of expenditure?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The schemes are sent by the Provincial Governments and we give some grant to meet certain expenses connected with certain schemes but where we give them contribution out of income tax and customs duties, etc., then of course it is for the provinces to spend as they like.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: After the schemes are actually put into operation, do the Central Government check the expenses incurred in that behalf?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: These are checked by the Departments concerned.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is there also a separate head for grants given to different provinces out of the excise duty on jute and betelnuts? Will the distribution of the export duties on tea be included in that head?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: No share of the export duty on tea is given to any province.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: What about jute and betelnuts?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Jute is given but not betelnuts.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: In reply to my question, the Honourable Member said that the expenditure is checked by the Departments concerned. Does he mean the Government of India Departments or the Provincial Government departments?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The Government of India. For instance, if a Provincial Government wants certain grants for police, then the matter goes to the Home Department. Whatever scheme is sent by a Provincial Government is examined.

POWERS OF REQUISITIONING BOARDS.

1063. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please lay on the table of the House a statement regarding the policy of Government in appointing Requisitioning Boards in different parts of India and stating the powers of such Boards?

(b) Are these Boards merely Advisory Boards or will their recommendations be given effect to by the Government of India?

(c) What is the composition of the Board in Bombay?

(d) Do Government propose to give this Board powers also to consider de-requisitioning of bungalows, flats and buildings still in Military occupation in their respective areas?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Advisory Boards of officials and non-officials have been established to scrutinise and advise Government on all questions arising from the continued possession by Government of requisitioned property and acquisition of such property

(b) The Boards are advisory, but Government will act on their recommendations as far as possible.

(c) I lay a statement on the table of the House

(d) This already falls within the purview of the Boards.

Statement

Composition of the Board at Bombay

Chairman—Secretary, Defence Department or his representative

Members—

(1) A representative of the Works, Mines and Power Department

(2) Director General, Lands, Hirings and Disposals or his representative

(3) Major General in Charge, Administration at Command or his representative

(4) Manu Subedar, Esq., M.L.A., (Central)

(5) Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Bart G.B.E., K.C.I.E., M.L.A. (Central).

(6) The Honourable Sir Rahmtoola Chinov, (Council of State)

(7) Mr Dahyabhai Patel, Chairman, Standing Committee, Bombay Municipal Corporation

(8) Mr J. B. Rowman, I.C.S.

RECRUITMENT AND REORGANISATION OF SECRETARY OF STATES SERVICES.

1064. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please lay on the table of the House a statement regarding the recruitment and reorganisation of the Services now known as Secretary of State's Services and Central Services with reference to the visit to India of Mr Arthur Henderson and his colleagues?

(b) What is the decision reached and what will be the future of those officers serving in the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies which I gave to starred question No 103 put by Professor N. G. Ranga on the 6th February 1947 and to starred question No 197 put by Shri D. P. Karmarkar on the 11th February 1947

LOANS TO PROVINCES FOR POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT.

†1065. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have reached a decision as to the appropriate amount to be allotted as a loan to the different Provinces of the country for post-war development purposes, if so, what is the amount;

(b) the amounts the Provinces applied for and the amounts Government sanctioned or contemplate sanctioning to the Provinces;

(c) the terms and conditions under which money is allowed to the Provinces and the basis on which such money is allotted to Provinces;

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(d) whether one principle will govern the allotment of money to all Provinces for post-war developments or whether the case of each Province will be considered and decided separately, and

(e) whether Government propose considering the case of the Central Provinces, Orissa and such other poorer Provinces specially for preferential grants with a view to achieve uniformity of development throughout the country?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) As I mentioned in my Budget Speech the amount provided in next year's budget for loans to the Provinces for development purposes is Rs. 32 crores. This provision is of course distinct from the market borrowings of the Provinces themselves.

(b) The budget provision is based on the estimates received from the Provincial Governments. The actual amounts of the loans will be settled in the course of the year.

(c) If a Provincial Government takes a loan from the Centre for the same period as that for which the Centre has borrowed during the year, the rate of interest charged to the Province is about 1 per cent. above the effective rate paid by the Centre on its loan.

(d) and (e) The Central Government are giving special consideration to the claims of some of the poorer Provinces in the allocation of development grants, but they consider that the terms for loan money should be the same for all Provinces.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT, DELHI

1066. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Criminal Investigation Department in Delhi is also under the Senior Superintendent of Police, Delhi, and that the officers and constables working in the C I D and the regular Police are interchangeable and are generally transferred from one Department to the other. If so, are Government aware that persons serving in the C I D hesitate to bring to the notice of Government acts of corruption and dereliction of duty committed by the officers of the Police? If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of separating the two services with a view to improve the efficiency of the Criminal Investigation Department?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The answer to the first part is yes.

As regards the second part, it is not a part of the duties of the Criminal Investigation Department to bring to the notice of the Government acts of corruption and dereliction of duty committed by the officers or staff of the Police. Bribery and corruption among Central Government servants are dealt with by the Delhi Special Police Establishment, while 'dereliction of duty' on the part of a particular Government servant is the concern of his immediate departmental officer.

The third part does not arise.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know from the Honourable Member whether he is aware of the fact that in certain areas the regular police officers sometimes overlook the activities of certain organisations and it is the C I D's function to report in respect of those activities and it fails to report for fear of incurring the displeasure of the Police officers concerned and thus the administration is adversely affected?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The duty of the C I D is to report to the police only so far as offences relating to law and order are concerned. It has nothing to do with bribery and corruption. That department is entirely separate.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: When I refer to all acts of dereliction of duty I include all such activities on the part of the regular police as are not reported now by the C I D. I include those activities also in respect of which for one reason or the other they fail to take necessary action.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: As I said, so far as dereliction of duty is concerned, it is the departmental superior who has to take notice. The function of the C I D, is quite different altogether.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know if there is an organisation which keeps a watch on the activities of the police officers indulging in corruption?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: There is a special branch for keeping watch on and investigating cases of bribery and corruption.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the Honourable Member is aware that in several provinces the practice followed is that the C I D staff is not under the Senior Superintendent of Police, with the result that they can act independently without fear?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I do not know about the practice in the other provinces but I will inquire.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will he consider the desirability of following the same practice in Delhi if he comes to know that this system is working well in other provinces?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Certainly if it is found to be better than the present arrangement.

RESTRICTIONS ON PLYING OF TONGAS ON THE MAIN ROAD AT DARYAGANJ

1067. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) if tongas are not allowed to ply on the main road at Daryaganj for some distance beyond the Delhi Gate going towards the old Delhi city;

(b) if tongas are permitted to use only a narrow path between the main road and the adjoining buildings;

(c) if beyond this particular stretch, tongas and motors are permitted to run on the common road; and

(d) the reasons for restricting this stretch of road for motor traffic only?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) to (c) Yes.

(d) The restriction has been imposed in order to avoid traffic accidents.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member kindly explain to us the mysterious phenomenon because of which the very road beyond that particular stretch I have referred to, becomes safe for joint tonga and motor traffic although there too it is not broader even by an inch than the road on which the traffic is restricted near the Delhi Gate?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Does the Honourable Member suggest that there should be no restriction?

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I suggest that there should be no restriction for tonga traffic on this stretch either, on which there is such restriction at present and that both tongas and motors should be allowed to ply on this stretch of the road as they are allowed to ply further up.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: This part of the road is a business centre and therefore the restriction is imposed.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that the amount of space reserved for Tonga traffic is exceedingly narrow and that it is difficult for the Tongas to pass, especially when that stretch is also used as a Tonga-stand?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Tonga requires smaller space than the other conveyance.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member tell us the difference in the width of the Tonga and the motor car?

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

RIGHT TO DEFER RELEASE TO OFFICERS OF INDIAN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

1068. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government propose to ask members of the Indian Medical Department, acting as officers, to elect to be demobilised or to revert to their substantive ranks by April 1947;

(b) whether officers in every other branch of the Forces, including European officers attached to the Indian Army, have been given the right to defer their release for a period of two years; and

(c) why the Indian Medical Department officers alone have not been given this right?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) There now being no need for emergency commissions to continue, it is intended that members of the I M D (British and Indian Cadres) holding these commissions in the I M S / I A M C / I M D. should be asked to elect by 1st May 1947 whether they desire to be released from service on 30th June 1947 or desire to revert to their former entitled status in the ranks which they would have reached in the I M D on 1st July 1947. It is anticipated that by that date the majority of the other Emergency Commissioned Officers in the I M S / I A M C. will have been released.

(b) Officers of the British Service may defer their release in accordance with current British Service Regulations whether or not attached to the Indian Army. British Officers of the Indian Army have not been permitted to defer release for two years since September 1946. Since that date Indian officers of the Indian Army have been restricted to deferring their release for periods of six months at a time extendable up to a maximum of two years.

(c) Members of the Indian Medical Department have not been singled out nor has their treatment been in any way discriminatory. All Army Instructions (India) offering Emergency Commissions to members of the I M D made it quite clear that the grant of such Commissions was for the duration of the war or emergency and that members of the I M D although granted Emergency Commissions would retain their I M D status and the rights and privileges of that department on reversion.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is it the intention of the Government that they will retrench the members of this Department after they revert?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I made a full statement on this question in the debate on the cut motion when I pointed out that the officers concerned will have the option either to retire voluntarily or to continue in their former status which they would have attained if there had been no war. Thus, in no respect, this particular class of officers suffers.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: May I know how many specialists from the I.M.D. are now serving in the I A M C ?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is it not a fact that all other specialists are being allowed to remain irrespective of age and other considerations and only the specialists from the I M S are being asked to revert or to retire?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I think that is not correct. Certain medical officers with specialist qualifications are being retained in the I A M C.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is it not a fact that while the Government proposes to revert these men to warrant officer rank, they will still be asked to discharge the duties of senior officers?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I do not think so. When they revert to their previous status of warrant officers, they will perform the duties which the warrant officers ordinarily perform.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is it not a fact that the Finance Department has strongly objected to the reversion of these men?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Sir, it is not the practice of the Government to exhibit in the House the differences of the various Departments of the Government of India.

MUSLIM CADETS IN THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY.

1069. *Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state how many batches of cadets have been taken for training in the Indian Military Academy since the termination of the war and what is the percentage of Muslims taken in the Academy?

(b) Is it a fact that the Congress National Anthem is sung daily in the Indian Military Academy?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Three courses for Regular Commissions in the Post-War Indian Army have been held at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, since the War ended. I lay a statement on the table of the House showing the dates of these courses and the percentage of Muslims on each course

(b) No, Sir.

Serial	Date of Commencement of course	Date of termination of course	Total Intake	Number of Muslims	Percentage of Muslims
1st Course .	25-2-46	22-12-46	127	25	19.7%
2nd Course	19-8-46	Dec 1947	247	40	16.2%
3rd Course	27-1-47	Dec 1948	274	65	23.7%

PROMOTION OF COMMODORE LAWRENCE, A SOUTH AFRICAN AS A REAR ADMIRAL

1070. *Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Chief Naval Staff Commadore, Lawrence, is a South African and that he is to be promoted as a Rear Admiral?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: No, Sir

ENLISTING OF SYEDS INTO THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

†1071. *Captain Syed Abid Hussain: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Syeds" in general, and "Shia Syeds" in particular, are debarred from entry into the Royal Indian Navy;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is no such restriction on their recruitment to the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force; and

(c) if the replies to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to remove the restriction on Syeds in general and "Shia Syeds" in particular so far as their recruitment to the Navy is concerned; and if not, why not?

*Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes Sir Recruitment of Syeds to the Royal Indian Navy is barred because past experience has shown that the conditions of Service on Ships have not proved acceptable to members of this community

(b) Yes Sir

(c) Yes Sir If Syeds are willing to accept conditions of service in the Royal Indian Navy they exist. A statement of some of the conditions about which Syeds have made difficulties is laid on the table of the House

STATEMENT

Some of the conditions which must be accepted by Syeds if they are to serve in the Royal Indian Navy

(a) Be prepared to eat food cooked in a common galley (cook house) in which food is fed for all communities by cooks of any religion

(b) Be prepared to carry out Clean Ship duties which comprise

(i) Hol-stoning, sweeping and scrubbing of decks, mess decks and flats with any of the approved appliances used in the Service for such purposes

(ii) Cleaning and painting of ship from truck to keel (top & bottom)

(iii) Cleaning of brass work, mess tables and benches, ship's machinery, armament and technical equipment, store rooms, offices, tanks, double bottoms, boats, masts and rigging, old rooms, cool rooms and various other parts of the ship not mentioned herein

(iv) Duties of Cook of a Mess which entail carrying of food, cleaning of mess utensils, washing plates of chief and petty officers, etc.

(v) Cleaning of galleys (cook houses) by cooks or other ratings

(vi) Cleaning of cabins by stewards or by such other ratings as are detailed to carry out these duties

(vii) Cleaning of the heads (Lavatories), bathrooms and other wash places by top-rate ratings

(viii) Disposal of sweepings

(ix) Cleaning of such other parts and fittings of the ship as the commanding officer of the ship may require

DISPOSAL OF STAFF CASES BY THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

1072. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the delay in the disposal of staff cases by the Customs Department with the result that men are frequently under suspension for months thus causing them financial loss, and

(b) whether Government propose to take any steps to remedy this grievance?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (i) No Sir Government are not aware that there is in general any inclination to delay.

(b) Necessary instructions already exist regarding that such departmental enquiries should be concluded as expeditiously as possible. There is also provision in the rules for an appeal to the Appellate Authority concerned against an order of suspension and this should afford redress against any undue delay in the disposal of such enquiries.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Honourable Member accept the statement that it is almost a rule in the Customs Department for men under suspension to have their case pending for a period ranging from six months to two years and if finding numerous instances of such cases to his notice will he be prepared to look to these men for redress?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: If the Honourable Member will give some concrete instances I shall certainly look into them.

ARMY UNITS IN BIHAR

1073. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Army units were sent to certain districts of Bihar in the month of October 1946 and if so—(i) to which districts, (ii) the number of troops in each district, (iii) the dates on which they reached their destination, (iv) the reasons for requisitioning their services and (v) the authority which called them,

(b) the date on which the local Army Commander at Dinapore was asked to help the civil authorities to control the situation, the terms on which the Provincial authorities wanted the Army's help; the terms, if any, which the Commander demanded for the use of his Force on the first day; the reasons why the Brigadier wanted 24 hours to reply to the civil authorities, whether the Brigadier communicated with the higher Commander, if so, what was the purport of the communication;

(c) the names of the units which were operating in Patna, Gaya, Monghyr and Bhagalpur Districts from 1st to 10th November with the dates on which they first went out on patrol duties; and

(d) the communal composition of the Army on active duty in Bihar in the four districts mentioned in part (c) as on 4th and 11th November, 1946?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (c) Information in this detail is not maintained at General Headquarters and cannot therefore be supplied

(b) The formal request for military assistance was received from the Commissioner, Patna Division at 18-55 hours on 1st November 1946. Troops consisting of one battalion were in operation by 20-00 hours on the same date. Employment of troops in aid of the Civil Power was in accordance with normal instructions and no special terms were laid down.

(d) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply to Starred Question No 411 answered on the 20th February 1947

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether there was some difference between the Provincial Government of Bihar and the Military Commander with regard to the terms on which these troops were to be employed?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have categorically stated that there is no question of terms to be settled in this matter. Whenever a Civil authority asks for the assistance of troops, it is the duty of the local Commander to comply with the request to the best of his ability

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether the Government have the information that the Military Commander refused to allow the troops to go into the villages and was that fact represented by the premier of Bihar?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have no such information, but I doubt whether that would be correct.

USE OF ARMY IN THE SUPPRESSION OF RIOTS IN BIHAR.

1074. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state;

(a) the places with dates, where the Army opened fire on riotous mobs in Bihar in November, 1946;

(b) the estimated number of the mob encountered at each place;

(c) the number of soldiers and the number of automatic weapons, if any, carried by them;

(d) the number of rounds fired by them on each occasion; and

(e) the number of people injured and killed by Army fire, and recovered by the Army?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) to (d) I am afraid, Sir, that information in the detail required is not maintained and cannot be supplied

(e) It is estimated that as a result of firing by the Army 313 persons were killed and 83 injured. Nearly all these were picked up by the Army. On many occasions the mob removed their killed and wounded and so it is not possible to give accurate figures of the number killed and wounded.

RELIEF OF MUSLIMS OF TELHARA BY THE ARMY IN BIHAR RIOTS

1075. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state the reasons for the failure of the Army to reach in time to save the Muslims of Telhara (District Patna)?

(b) Is it a fact that they were detained at the Police Station? If so, why; on what date and at what time did they reach and leave the Police Station?

(c) Is it a fact that the Army did not patrol Telhara although it is on Masserhi Bihar Road, if so why?

(d) Is it a fact that when the Army reached Telhara they found a large number of wounded Muslim men, women and children there? If so, how many were removed by them and at what time?

(e) Is it a fact that many of the injured persons were not removed on the first occasion? If so, why and what was the estimated number of the injured who were left behind and after how many hours were arrangements for their removal made?

(f) Is it a fact that on the second removal trip, very few injured persons were found alive?

(g) What was the number of soldiers who went for the relief of Telhara?

(h) Did the Army Officer report on the number of casualties found in Telhara? If so, what was the report?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) and (c) The reason is that the limited number of troops available could not cover all localities all the time by patrolling. Troops were sent out to deal with specific disturbances as soon as they were reported.

(b) No, Sir. The first news of the Telhara disturbance was received at Hilsa at 10-00 hrs. on the 3rd November 1946 through a runner. At that time there was in Hilsa one Viceroy's Commissioned Officer and his platoon. The Viceroy's Commissioned Officer at once started out for Telhara with seven men in two 15 cwt. trucks and *en route* encountered one newly dug ditch and two felled trees as road blocks. The Viceroy's Commissioned Officer and his party arrived at Telhara which is approximately twelve miles distant, at 12-00 hrs.

(d) On arrival the party found a mob many of whom were armed with shot guns, surrounding the village and had to open fire to force an entry. On getting into the village they found that a large number of the inhabitants had been killed. The survivors were sheltering in a mosque. During that afternoon approximately 400 survivors were evacuated but a certain number of wounded had to be left behind to be evacuated later. It will be appreciated that eight men and two trucks could not evacuate large numbers of wounded quickly.

(e) Yes, Sir, it is a fact that some injured persons were not removed on the first occasion. The reason for this was as already stated, that there were only eight men and two trucks available for this duty and they evacuated as many persons as they could. On the following morning one officer and two sections arrived early and searched the village for the wounded. This party also came on the mornings of the 5th 6th and 7th to carry out searches and evacuated about one hundred wounded persons.

(f) No, Sir, at least 100 persons were still alive and were evacuated on the 4th November and subsequent days.

(g) On all dates of the operations at Telhara approximately two officers and 30 Other Ranks were employed.

(h) Yes. Approximately 350 killed and 100 wounded.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know why when the information was available on the 3rd November, the military did not proceed to the place for more than 24 hours?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: They proceeded with the utmost speed. They received information at 10-00 hours. One V C O and seven men reached the place in spite of road blocks at 12-00 hours—a distance of about 12 miles, within two hours.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (d), is it a fact that those who were left behind were left unguarded so that they were liable to be attacked by the mob again?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have not got information in this detail, but I have indicated that the number of troops on the spot was small and I am sure the House will agree with me that they did whatever was possible in the circumstances.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The troops left the injured people unguarded with the result that the mob could go back and kill the wounded people who were left there?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: It is a statement which my Honourable friend makes which I am not in a position to confirm or contradict.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: To the best of our knowledge, the figure 400 survivors is fictitious. Will the Honourable Member kindly make enquiries?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: There is no reason why the information supplied by the local commander should be deemed inaccurate.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: May I know whether Government has got a detailed report of the doings of the military employed in Bihar?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The Central Government receives telegraphic reports on certain events in which the troops have had to take part. It is not the responsibility of the Defence Department to collect information about local riots and local disturbances in the provinces.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether this question was referred to the Officer Commanding in charge of that area? May I know whether any effort was made to procure his reply to this question?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: This reply has been drafted on the information available at the General Headquarters.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Government call for a comprehensive report from the military commander of all the activities of the troops and of all the information collected by them?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I understand that the Government of Bihar are going to appoint a Commission of Enquiry and I have no doubt that they will call for a report as regards the part played by troops.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: I am referring to the report to be called for from the military commander in charge of these operations. Will the Honourable Member get the information collected by the military?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I should like to point out that in getting this information and discussing this matter, I hope we are not trespassing on the field of the provincial legislature. It is for the provincial government and the provincial legislature to consider the situation of civil disturbances as a whole. We are only concerned with the part played by troops. That information we have got in the General Headquarters. I have done my best to supply as much information as possible.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: May I know how far the military could go in dealing with the people in riot affected area?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: This is too general a question.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: I want to know whether the military can enter a house of the people and kill the people sitting there in the house, without any provocation from them?

Mr. President: These are all hypothetical questions. It is more a question based on criminal law. I do not think any information can be sought on this in the House.

REQUISITIONING OF TROOPS BY CIVIL AUTHORITIES IN NOAKHALI AND TIPPERA DISTRICTS IN BENGAL.

1976. **Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) the first date on which troops were requisitioned by the civil authorities for controlling riots in Noakhali, and Tippera Districts in Bengal;

(b) the terms on which they were called out;

(c) the date on which they started operations;

- (d) the strength of the Army as on 20th and 27th October, 1946;
- (e) the names of the places where they opened fire and the estimated strength of the riotous mobs,
- (f) the military estimate of casualties due to riots; and
- (g) the number of persons killed and injured by military firing at places where the troops had to open fire?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) At the request of the civil authorities troops were moved to the area on the 2nd, 3rd and 7th October 1946

(b) Troops were called out under the usual instructions and there were no special terms

(c) Troops started operating from the 16th October 1946 on receipt of a specific demand for military assistance

(d) The troops deployed on the 20th October were six companies, and on the 27th October a Brigade H Q. and twelve companies were in operation

(e) I am afraid, Sir, that information in the detail required is not maintained and cannot be supplied

(f) This estimate is not a military responsibility and no attempt was made to arrive at any overall figures

(g) Twenty persons were killed and fifteen injured as a result of military firing.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: In this case who requisitioned the army; the Prime Minister or any particular officer?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: It does not matter who requisitions troops. The request must come from the provincial government. It does not matter whether it is made by the Governor or by anybody representing the Governor. My Honourable friend must realise that the executive authority of a province rests in the Governor which he can exercise directly or through the officers whom he appoints. Thus the Governor or any person authorised by him can ask for military assistance.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The Honourable Member did say in reply to the previous question that the Commissioner of Patna Division requisitioned for military aid. Here he does not say who requisitioned the military?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I have not got that information at the present moment.

INDIAN ENGINEERS ENGAGED ON CONTRACT IN THE M. E. S.

1077. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state

- (a) the number of civilian Engineers engaged on contract in the M. E. S.
- (i) by the Secretary of State for India and (ii) by the Government of India,
- (b) how many of these are Indians and how many non-Indians; and
- (c) whether any steps are being taken to terminate the services of non-Indians, if not, the reasons therefor?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) The number of temporary civilian engineers recruited on contract by the Secretary of State is six and by the Government of India 56

(b) 54 Indians and eight non-Indians

(c) Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken to terminate these contracts

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: May I know how long Government will take to replace the non-Indian personnel?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Not later than June, 1948

PROMOTION OF SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS AS TEMPORARY ASSISTANT ENGINEERS IN M. E. S.

1078. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Temporary Assistant Engineers in the M. E. S. promoted from among Sub-divisional Officers;

(b) how many of them do not possess any recognized degree or diploma normally specified as the necessary qualification for class I service of Engineers;

(c) whether any steps have been or are being taken to lay down a certain educational and technical standard for Assistant Engineers;

(d) whether it is a fact that a number of existing Assistant Engineers are below the F. A. standard of academical education; if so, their number; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the feasibility of terminating the services of unqualified Assistant Engineers and Civil Engineers, since the war is now over?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) 202

(b) Some of these officers did not possess the prescribed qualifications. They were temporarily promoted during the War and were those with the best experience and qualifications available

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir

(e) The whole M. E. S. Establishment is being reviewed and reorganised and in that process officers with qualifications which are inadequate by peacetime standards will be weeded out

PROPORTION OF CIVILIAN AND COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN THE M. E. S.

1079. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: (a) Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have approved in principle the policy that the Officer strength of the M. E. S. will be $\frac{2}{3}$ civilian and $\frac{1}{3}$ Commissioned Officers of the R. I. E.?

(b) Have any procedure, and educational and technical qualifications been prescribed for filling up the vacancies of officers in the M. E. S.? If not, why not?

(c) Will these vacancies be filled through the Federal Public Service Commission? If not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Educational and technical qualifications will be laid down

(c) New appointments will be made through the Federal Public Service Commission

RECRUITMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERS BY THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF

1080. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Engineer-in-Chief has recruited Civil Engineers on contract and also promoted Sub-divisional Officers as Assistant Engineers, without reference to the Federal Public Service Commission? If so, why was the normal method of recruitment to class I services not followed?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: These recruitments and promotions were all made on a purely temporary basis during the war and therefore no reference to the Federal Public Service Commission was made

PERMANENT CIVILIANS OF M. E. S. AS EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

1081. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state.

(a) the number of permanent civilians of the M. E. S. who are now Emergency Commissioned Officers in the R. I. E.;

(b) whether it is laid down as a policy that they will not be considered for grant of Short Service Commission in the R. I. E.; and

(c) if so, whether Government are aware that potential officers will thereby be lost to the Corps of R. I. E. when nationalization has to be accelerated?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Twenty-three.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. These officers are *permanent* civilian officers of the M.E.S. and it is essential to revert them to this service to fill senior posts. Their services will not, therefore, be lost to Government who are satisfied that their services can be better utilized as civilian officers in the M.E.S. than as Short Service officers in the R.I.E.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know what these mystic letters M.E.S. and R.I.E. stand for?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The Military Engineering Service and the Royal Indian Engineers.

CENSUS BY THE RESERVE BANK OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN INDIA

1982. ***Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India is taking a census of foreign investments in India,

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what the nature of such a census is and when it is expected to be finished;

(c) if the reply to part (a) be in the negative, whether the Reserve Bank proposes to take such a census in the near future, and

(d) what was the total value of foreign assets in India before 1939, how many of them have been sold out since 1939, and what is the total value of the foreign assets in India at present?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) The matter is under consideration.

(d) No reliable information is available.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that while the sterling debt negotiations were going on the Finance Department made certain calculations about this?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I am sorry I cannot give that information

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that these figures were discussed during those negotiations with the British delegation?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: The matter of negotiations is confidential

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the importance of this topic in future will Government consider whether such a census should not be taken for future purposes?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I said the matter is under consideration.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: What time will Government take to make these calculations known to the public?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: As soon as the calculations are ready.

NIEMEYER AWARD TO THE PROVINCE OF ORISSA

1983. ***Sri Bhagirathi Mahapatra:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether the Province of Orissa was given forty lacs of Rupees in all as per Niemeyer Award from 1937-38?

(b) Are Government aware that the construction of buildings for the Capital for which the above sum was given has not yet been undertaken on account of war conditions?

(c) Are Government aware that the Government of Orissa have to start new departments as a result of expansion after the war, necessitating an increase in accommodation and buildings?

(d) Are Government aware that the cost price of materials have increased many times more than what was estimated in the Niemeyer Award of 1935?

(e) What action do the Government of India propose to take in this direction?

(f) Have the Government of Orissa represented any difficulties to the Government of India in that matter?

(g) Have the Government of India come to any decision?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) The Central Government paid Rs. 27½ lakhs to Orissa at the time of the separation of the Province for construction of new additional buildings for its capital and another 15 lakhs in five instalments for the same purpose during 1937-38 to 1941-42 in accordance with the Niemeyer Award.

(b) to (d). Yes.

(e) to (g). On a representation from the Government of Orissa for an increased grant for the construction of a new Capital at Bhubaneshwar, the Government of India have advised the Provincial Government to postpone their new Capital project for the present because of shortage of building materials and their high prices.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know what the present capital of Orissa is?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I think it is Cuttack.

WITHDRAWAL OF CASES AGAINST TRADE UNION WORKERS IN DELHI

1084. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have withdrawn the cases pending against Trade Union workers in Delhi in connection with certain strikes and the Anti-Victory Day demonstrations on 7th March, 1946,

(b) if so, the number of cases so withdrawn and the section under which the cases were pending; and

(c) whether Government also propose to withdraw the cases under Section 81(A) of Defence of India Rules pending against seven Trade Union Workers in Delhi, in connection with the All India Postal Employees' strike in July, 1946?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes, all pending cases relating to the V-Day disturbances except one relating to the burning of the Town Hall have been withdrawn, as also cases relating to strikes except those concerned with Postal and Police strikes.

(b) Ten such cases have been withdrawn. Three of them were under Rule 88, Defence of India Rules, one under Defence of India Rules 56, one under section 435/149 Indian Penal Code, and five under section 7 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

(c) No

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know why Government are not releasing these people or withdrawing these cases?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The reason for not withdrawing cases in connection with postal and police strikes is that incitement to strikes by Government servants should be dealt with more stringently than incitement to other strikes.

PARADE IN NEW DELHI FOR PRESENTATION OF INSIGNIA OF 'GEORGE CROSS'

1085. ***Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan:** Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to state.

(a) whether a parade was held in New Delhi on March 11, 1947 in connection with the presentation of the insignia of 'George Cross' to certain persons;

(b) the names of the persons who were presented with the insignia;

(c) the qualifications of the persons concerned, and

(d) the cost of the parade and the head to which the same will be allocated?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The names of those who received this award and the deeds of gallantry for which it was given are contained in the list of citations, a copy of which I lay on the table of the House.

(d) The expenditure incurred in connection with this parade consists of the cost of movement of troops and the travelling expenses of the recipients of the award, apart from the cost of printing the list of citations which amounted to Rs 1,896-6-0. The cost of movement of troops and the travelling expenses of the recipients are not recorded under a special head of account. Accurate calculation of the cost would involve an expense of time and labour not commensurate with the results, but as the troops came largely from Delhi Cantt., it would be appreciated that the extra expenditure incurred in connection with this parade was negligible.

*Citation in respect of the Award of the George Cross to Capt. Mahmood Khan Durani,
1 Bahawalpur Inf, I S F*

For outstanding courage, loyalty and fortitude whilst a prisoner of war

With a small party he was cut off during the withdrawal in Malaya. They succeeded in remaining free in hiding for three months until betrayed, when they were arrested and confined.

Refusing to join the I N A this officer devoted himself to rendering aid.

He then conceived and put into execution, a plan for thwarting the Japanese plans for infiltrating agents into India. After many delays and set backs due to falling under suspicion he ultimately achieved much of his object.

Presumably, as a result of the suspicion that he had been responsible for the failure of their plans, he was arrested by the Japanese. For ten days he was subjected to third degree methods, including starvation, deprivation of sleep and physical torture such as application of burning cigarettes to his legs.

Subsequently he was given a mock trial and condemned to death but execution was postponed in order that information should be extracted. He was then tortured by various particularly brutal methods continuously for several days. The exact time is uncertain as there were periods of unconsciousness, but it certainly lasted for some days. No information whatever was obtained from him. Thereafter he was kept in solitary confinement for several months, with occasional interrogations and was given little medical treatment and just enough food to sustain life.

When finally liberated he was found to be permanently affected in health and still bears the marks of physical torture. He will never be the same again. Throughout he was fully aware of the possible consequences of his actions and, when discovered, he preferred to undergo protracted and cruel torture rather than confess his plans and save himself, because he still hoped that he might achieve his purpose. To confess would have endangered others' lives and might have influenced the enemy to change their plans.

His outstanding example of deliberate cold-blooded bravery is most fully deserving of the highest award.

Citation in respect of the posthumous Award of the

Empire Regiment

From the time of capitulation of Hong Kong, Capt. Ansari was separated from his fellow officers and confined with Indian Other Ranks. Every effort was made to seduce him and so obtain his influence to lead others away from their allegiance. He steadfastly continued both by word and example to counter-act all traitorous propaganda and resolutely opposed all attempts at undermining the loyalty of his compatriots.

In May 1942, after warnings and beatings had produced no effect, he was thrown into Stanley Jail where he remained until September 1942 by which time owing to starvation and brutal ill treatment which is alleged to have included mutilations, he had become unable to walk. He was released to a camp hospital. On recovering sufficiently he returned to an Indian Other Ranks camp and not only resumed his previous efforts but also organised a system for aiding escapees.

In May 1943, he was betrayed and again thrown into Stanley Jail where he was starved and brutally tortured for several months. Fellow prisoners, both British and Indian, have testified that during this period his outstanding courage and defiance were such as to excite the admiration of all. Finally he was tried and beheaded.

Throughout his long and terrible ordeal his loyalty, courage and endurance never wavered. His example undoubtedly assisted many to remain loyal in spite of sufferings and privation and his name became a by word for deliberate and cold blooded heroism—*Reuter*.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

On 22nd February, 1945, Havildar Abdul Rehman and a party of five Indian Other Ranks were proceeding from D Company at Kletek to Battalion Headquarters at Waroe. Near Keteagan their Jeep blew up on a mine, was thrown forward into a ditch and broke into pieces. Havildar Abdul Rehman was thrown clear out of the Jeep and set to work to rescue the three men who lay wounded or injured from the crash, beneath the Jeep. His task was rendered the more hazardous, since owing to the fire, the ammunition carried in the Jeep began to explode. Nevertheless, he extricated one man, and although by this time the Jeep was burning fiercely, succeeded in dragging a second clear. He then turned to the third man was lying under the Jeep by the front near wheel, but, as he took hold of him, the petrol tank under the driver's seat exploded, spouting its flaming contents on him. Despite his condition, he continued his efforts until an ambulance party approached, when, calling out to them to complete his work quickly, he fell, dead, over the Jeep. Havildar Abdul Rehman's complete disregard of his personal safety and his determination to rescue his helpless comrades, in which he persisted even while being burned to death himself, constitutes an example of resolute courage of the highest order.

Citation in respect of the posthumous Award of the George Cross to No 15634 W's Naik Kirpa Ram, 8th Bn, The Frontier Force Rifles

At Thondebhavi on 12th September 1945, Naik Kirpa Ram was commanding a section on a field firing exercise. He was lying close to a Sepoy who was firing grenades from a discharger cup, the remainder of his section being in position beside him. The third grenade to be fired fell short and landed only about 8 yards in front of the section position. 15634 Naik Kirpa Ram saw at a glance that if it exploded these many of his section would be killed or wounded. Without a moment's hesitation he leapt up and dashed forward shouting as he did so to the men of his Section, "Get back and take cover." He picked up the grenade, but before he could throw it into a place where it could cause no damage, it exploded. The main force of the explosion was taken by his body, and he died of wounds shortly afterwards. As a result of his act only two men of his section were slightly wounded. 15634 Naik Kirpa Ram knowing full well the possible consequences, risked his life in order to save those of the men under his command. His fine spirit of sacrifice and devotion to duty will ever be remembered in his Regiment and will be a constant source of inspiration to all ranks.

Citation in respect of the posthumous Award of the George Cross to No 17308 Sowar Ditto Ram, I A C

On the 23rd July, 1944 No. 17308 Ditto Ram was a member of a patrol commanded by Lt. Young. The patrol had been ordered to occupy a hill feature. On reaching the objective at about 2300 hours the patrol ran on to an enemy Schu minefield suffering casualties amounting to 5 men injured.

Sowar Ditto Ram was among those wounded, his left leg having been blown off below the knee by a Schu mine. He applied a field dressing and on hearing calls for help from Sowar Shiv Prashad, who had also been wounded, he crawled forward throughout the minefield to assist him. Sowar Ditto Ram was fully aware of the danger to which he was subjecting himself. It was a danger which he accepted.

On reaching Sowar Shiv Prashad, whose left thigh had been shattered by the explosion of a mine, he applied a field dressing to his comrade's wound. He was in the greatest pain throughout which made the operation both difficult and protracted. Having completed his task, he lost consciousness and died a few minutes later.

Sowar Ditto Ram was a very young soldier with only 2 years service, nevertheless, besides showing the greatest personal courage and disregard for pain, by crawling through a minefield to help a wounded companion, he set the finest example of soldierly comradeship and self-sacrifice. He maintained consciousness only long enough to finish the bandaging of his comrade before he died without a murmur of complaint or a suspicion of regret.

DAIRY FARMS RUN BY THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

1086. *Mr. B. B. Varma: Will the Secretary of the Defence Department be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the following particulars for the last three years—

(a) the number of dairy farms run by the Defence Department for supply of milk and milk products to the Army;

- (b) the number of cows, buffaloes and calves of each breed in the farms;
- (c) the amount spent yearly on the dairy farms;
- (d) the balance sheet, if it is maintained, of these farms;
- (e) the cost of production of milk per pound; and
- (f) the area of land attached to the farms?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: (a) 1st January 1945—53

1st January 1946—58.

1st January 1947—47.

(b) I lay a statement on the table of the House (Statement I).

(c) For the year ending 31st March 1945—Rs. 10,79,38,261.

For the year ending 31st March 1946—Rs. 12,44,67,160.

From 1st April 1946 to 1st February 1947—Rs. 5,81,80,864.

(d) I lay on the table of the House copies of Balance Sheets for the years 1944-45 and 1945-46 (Statement II). The Balance Sheet for the year 1946-47 is not yet ready, but the working result up to the 28th February 1947 is a profit of over Rs. 36 lakhs.

(e) I regret, Sir, that statistics in this detail are not available.

(f) 1,10,488,761 acres.

Statement I

All India herd strength on 1st January each year

	1945	1946	1947
Cows	4,835	4,637	3,531
Cow Calves	2,792	3,196	2,435
Buffaloes	45,194	45,994	23,851
Buffalo calves	4,118	6,783	4,887
Grand Total	56,939	60,610	34,654

STATEMENT II.
(i) Balance sheet of Military Farms in India as at 31st March 1945.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Liabilities		Assets						
Particulars	Amount	Rs. a. p.	Particulars	Land	Buildings	Plant, Machinery and Im- plements	Live Stock	Amount
To Sundry Creditors (Liabilities).	..	65,65,377 4 6	By Capital as per I. A. F. (D. F.)—25—					
To Govt. Accounts—			Balance on 1st April 1944.	11,44,203	41,24,561	22,23,503	59,00,001	1,34,02,268 0 0
A. (i) Interest bearing.	24,07,806 0 0	..	Additions	1,04,737	6,98,716	41,63,571	1,26,80,311	1,76,47,335 0 0
A. (ii) Interest bearing.	2,09,82,321 0 0	..	Total	12,48,940	48,23,277	64,87,074	1,84,80,312	3,10,49,603 0 0
Total Govt. Account "A".	2,33,90,627 0 0	..	Deduct depreciation, casualties and con- demnations, etc.	1,33,123	7,21,169	21,18,115	1,12,82,579	1,42,54,986 0 0
B. (i) Free of interest	42,56,107 8 0	..	Net value of Capital on 31st March 1945.	11,15,817	41,12,108	43,68,959	71,97,733	1,67,94,617 0 0
B. (ii) Departmental	7,43,692 8 0	..						
Total Govt. Account "B".	50,04,800 0 0	..						
Total (Govt. Account A plus B).	..	2,83,95,427 0 0	Add Balance of Renewals Reserve Fund. Account as per I. A. F. (D. F.)—58.					1,18,00,810 0 0
To Govt. Account "C" (Banking).	2,89,67,918 10 4	..	By stocks in hand					2,83,95,427 0 0
Add balance of Renewals Reserve Fund.	1,76,00,810 0 0	4,05,68,728 10 4	By cash in hand					3,14,67,305 14 1
			By Sundry debtors (outstandings)					3,53,354 14 1
			By Reserve Fund Account for Losses sustained up to previous year					59,76,320 14 8
			By Reserve Fund Account for Loss sustained in current year					18,65,532 5 2
Total	..	7,55,29,532 14 10	Total					74,66,381 14 10
								7,55,29,532 14 10

Balance Sheet of Military Farms in India as at 31st March 1945.....next sheet.

(ii) Balance Sheet of Military Farms in India as at 31st March 1946

Liabilities				Assets						
Particulars	Amount	Rs	a	p	Particulars	Land	Buildings	Plant, Machinery and Im- plements	Live Stock	Amount
To Sundry Creditors (Liabilities)		Rs	a <td>p</td> <td>By Capital as per I A. F. (D F)—25—</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	p	By Capital as per I A. F. (D F)—25—					
To Govt. Accounts—		73,52,632	15	4	Balance on 1st April 1945	11,15,817	41,12,108	43,68,959	71,97,733	1,67,94,617
A. (i) Interest bear- ing	24,14,214 0 0				Additions . . .	15,837	9,22,498	42,57,067	1,05,63,802	1,67,59,424
A (ii) Interest bear- ing.	2,66,35,666 0 0				Total	11,31,674	50,34,806	86,26,026	1,77,61,535	3,26,54,041
Total Govt. Account "A"	2,90,49,880 0 0				Deduct depreciation, casualties, and con- demnations, etc.	8,145	3,29,972	26,15,730	1,13,40,166	1,42,94,013
B (i) Free of interest	46,24,500 8 0				Net value of Capital on 31st March, 1946	11,23,329	47,04,834	60,10,296	64,21,369	1,82,60,028
B (ii) Departmental	11,18,780 8 0									
Total Govt. Account "B"	57,43,281 0 0				Add Balance of Renewals Reserve Fund A. F.—58					1,65,53,163
Total Govt. Account A plus B)		3,48,13,191	0	0	Total (Govt. Account A plus B)					3,48,13,191
To Govt. Account "C" (Banking)	3,80,10,587 14 3				By stocks in hand					3,62,33,596
Add balance of Re- newals Reserve Fund	1,65,33,163 0 0				By cash in hand					2,23,961
		5,45,63,750	14	3	By Sundry debt as (outstandings)					88,20,514
					By Reserve Fund Account or Losses sustained upto previous year					94,34,138
					By Reserve Fund Account for Loss sustained in current year					71,99,172
Total	9,67,29,574 13 7				Total					9,67,29,574

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE REVISION OF 2219
THE CONVENTION *re* RAILWAY FINANCE

ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL OF ORISSA AT BHUBANESHWAR.

1087. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the capital of Orissa is going to be established at Bhubaneswar; and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to meet a portion of the cost thereof; if so, what amount?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: (a) Government are aware of a proposal to construct a new capital for Orissa at Bhubaneswar.

(b) The Government of India have advised the Orissa Government to postpone this project for the present. So this question does not arise.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that the answer given by the Government of India to the Orissa Government does not involve a refusal of financial assistance when reconsideration of the matter is taken up?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: No, Sir, it does not, as a matter of fact the Government of India have advised the Orissa Government not to proceed with the scheme just now on account of, as I said in answer to a previous question, the shortage of material and the cost of construction. It is a very big scheme that they have prepared for the new capital.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Government of India discourage the Orissa Government from changing its capital?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: I think my Honourable friend can use greater persuasion than the Government of India.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I know what has happened to the money—15 or 20 lakhs—already given to the Orissa Government for building purposes?

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: It is being retained in a fund by the Government of Orissa.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE
REVISION OF THE CONVENTION *re* RAILWAY FINANCE

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Wednesday, the 19th March, 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the purpose of election of eleven members to serve on a Committee to consider the revision of the Convention adopted under the Assembly Resolution dated the 20th September, 1924, twelve nominations were received. Subsequently one

12 Noon member withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee:

1. Mr. Manu Subedar.
2. Sjt. N. V. Gadgil.
3. Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.
4. Shri Satya Narayan Sinha.
5. Pandit Balkrishna Sharma.
6. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal.
7. Mr. S. Guruswami.
8. Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan.
9. Mr. Muhammad Nauman.
10. Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad.
11. Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE FOR 1944-45

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1944-45.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR DEPARTMENT OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Works, Mines and Power is concerned, for the financial year 1947-48."

Mr. President: The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Works, Mines and Power is concerned, for the financial year 1947-48."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD DEPARTMENT

Mr. K. L. Punjabi (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects in the Department of Food for the financial year 1947-48."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects in the Department of Food for the financial year 1947-48."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, twelve non-official members to serve on the Defence Consultative Committee for the financial year 1947-48."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, twelve non-official members to serve on the Defence Consultative Committee for the financial year 1947-48."

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadian Rural): May I know how many meetings were held during the year?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Three meetings were held during the last year. Perhaps I should mention the subjects which were discussed at the last meeting which was held on the 16th and 18th December 1946. The subjects discussed were:

(1) Consideration of the Report of the Royal Indian Navy Commission of Enquiry;

(2) Discussion of ways and means for meeting the present poor quality of potential material appearing before the Selection Boards for Commissions in the Armed Forces, and to devise methods for local elimination of indifferent material;

- (3) Supply of milk, ghee to the Armed Forces;
- (4) Nationalization of the Royal Indian Air Force;
- (5) Discussion of the details of giving permanent Commissions to Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers;
- (6) Discussion on the future of those officers who had applied for the I.C.S., Indian Police, and Indian Political Service, etc.;
- (7) Discussion on details of procedure of giving civil employment under the Provincial Governments to the demobilized men in the Defence Forces.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural). What was the decision of the Committee on the supply of ghee to the Armed Forces?

Mr. President: I am afraid the decisions of the Committee may be referred to on some other occasion

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa, Muhammadan). May I know whether this Committee also deals with the question of demobilization, or not, and has this question ever been placed before this Committee?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: The Committee is competent to deal with any questions which any Member of the Committee wants to put in the agenda and which the Honourable the Defence Member, who is the President, is prepared to accept.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division, Non-Muhammadian Rural): On the question of agenda may I make a submission for the information of the House, and for drawing the attention of the Honourable Member to this matter. Sir, the agenda is prepared and circulated in a way that the non-official members are practically excluded from the opportunity of putting forward their suggestions. I referred to this matter when the last meeting of the Defence Consultative Committee was held. Before that, however, informal enquiries were made and the members had no idea as to when the meetings were going to be held. All of a sudden a date was fixed and the agenda was circulated. One of the Members of that Committee wrote to the Department asking for inclusion in the agenda of certain very important matters—questions relating to I.N.A. and R.I.N.—and the reply that was received was that as the meeting was coming up and the agenda had already been prepared and was heavy, therefore there was no time for inclusion in the agenda of such matters. But unfortunately some time after that another supplementary agenda was circulated and this supplementary agenda was prepared by the Department itself. I will not find faults with the past, but I would expect the department to put up things a little better. It will be better for the Department if an idea is given to the Members as to the approximate time when the meeting was going to be called and if suggestions are invited from them for inclusion in the agenda. That would facilitate business and that will also create an impression that the Department is not out to do business in a hide and seek manner.

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: I replied to my Honourable friend when he put this question to me on another day in this Session. As I just now stated the subjects placed before the Committee took two days to discuss.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Where was the harm if it had taken four days instead of two?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: If more items had been added to the agenda, the meeting would have had to be adjourned till the third day. As regards the fixing of the date, perhaps my Honourable friend is aware that it was difficult to fix a date which was suitable to all members of the Committee. I made several attempts to fix a date previous to that but the Honourable Members seemed to be tired after the autumn Session and could not meet immediately afterwards. I have

[Mr. G. S. Bhalja.]

already given an assurance on the floor of the House that all the subjects which my Honourable friend wanted to discuss at the last meeting will be placed in the agenda of the next meeting which, I hope, will be convened soon after the financial year is over. If it would be convenient to my Honourable friends in this House it can meet immediately after this Session is over.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) May I know whether in that agenda will be included the very important question of the acquisition by India of three Cruisers from the United Kingdom, Cruisers which were damaged and which have been repaired and which are of a class which America below up at Bikini?

Mr. G. S. Bhalja: Certainly. In fact this question has already been placed before the Defence Consultative Committee, and if desired by any Honourable Member who is a member of the Committee it will be again placed before the next meeting of the Committee.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, twelve non-official members to serve on the Defence Consultative Committee for the financial year 1947-48."

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely:

	Date for nomination	Date for election
1. Standing Committee for the Department of Works, Mines and Power.	24th March, 1947 .	26th March, 1947.
2. Standing Committee for the Department of Food.	24th March, 1947	26th March, 1947.
3. Defence Consultative Committee .	24th March, 1947 .	27th March, 1947.

The nominations for all the three Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A M and 1 P M

COAL MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND BILL

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member) Sir, I beg for leave to introduce a Bill to make better provision for financing measures for promoting the welfare of labour employed in the coal-mining industry

Mr. President: The question is.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make better provision for financing measures for promoting the welfare of labour employed in the coal-mining industry"

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA RENT CONTROL BILL— *contd*

Mr. President: The House will now consider the motion regarding the Bill to make better provision for the control of rents in certain areas in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara as reported by the Select Committee.

In this respect, while discussing the consideration motion, I should like to make a request to the Honourable Members of the House, I find that a large number of amendments, numbering in all 121, has been tabled. There are two courses open. On the consideration motion, a general discussion might take place and then the amendments may be moved and discussed absolutely shortly just to avoid a repetition of the debate and spending the time of the House. Or in the alternative, the consideration motion may be discussed very briefly and then the merits of each amendment which involves some suggestion or other, may be discussed at greater length. I am making the suggestion just with a view to have an effective discussion in the House as also to avoid repetition and to save time.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division, Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I submit that the former course will be better, because once the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill gets a full idea as to the implications of the amendment tabled, lobby discussions and other things might narrow down the points of difference so far as the amendments are concerned.

Mr. President: I mean that the Honourable Members may not discuss the same amendments and the same point after having once discussed them in the consideration motion generally. I am entirely in the hands of the Honourable Members and I will see that the Honourable Members cooperate with me in not repeating the arguments.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale (Government of India Nominated Official) Sir, I am greatly obliged to you for the valuable suggestions which you have just now made. To-day is the 20th March and the existing rent control orders expire on the 24th of this month. So we have only four days left, within which, this House has to finish consideration of this Bill and the Council of State has also to consider the same Bill.

I am very glad that you have stressed the urgency of the matter and I hope that we shall all act up to your valuable suggestions and see that this Bill is passed as quickly as possible. I may add that valuable discussions have already taken place in the lobby during the last few days and the points of difference have been very considerably narrowed down. In fact, I may say that most of the points have been cleared and if Honourable Members will only accept your valuable advice, we should finish this Bill within a couple of hours.

As regards my opening remarks, I shall try to be as brief as possible. Yesterday evening before the House adjourned, I acknowledged my deep debt of gratitude to the members of the Select Committee for the very valuable suggestions which they had made and the many amendments which they had introduced in this Bill. I then went on to explain how we had kept the primary important point in view that we should do nothing in connection with this Bill which would discourage private house-building activity. The Select Committee has very wisely decided that nothing in this Bill should affect any new houses of which the construction will be completed from now onwards. Apart from this, we made a few other modifications in Section 10 by which vacant sites attached to residential and non-residential quarters will be available for new buildings. Thirdly we have tried to be very fair to all interests and particularly to the landlords to guard against any feeling that this is an exproprietary measure, that their rights are being taken away and that buildings are being requisitioned though not on behalf of Government but on behalf of the tenants and sub-tenants. I then explained how the Select Committee had allowed for a graded increase in rent, how they had modified

[Mr. B. K. Gokhale.]

the provisions for eviction, how they had protected sub-tenants both from eviction as also from extortionate demands of rent, what provision we had made for repairs, how the penalty clause had been tightened up and how we had provided for speedy remedy in court through the procedure applicable to Small Causes Courts.

I shall now briefly deal with another important clause, Clause 11, which was discussed at great length on the floor of this House before the Bill was referred to Select Committee. Here the Select Committee has made very important modifications. In the first place, Sir, this clause as amended in Select Committee will now apply only to premises in New Delhi. It will not apply to Old Delhi nor to Ajmer-Merwara nor to any other area. Secondly the Government have agreed that this clause should not apply to small tenements or small houses or anything of which the standard rent is less than Rs. 200 p.m. The primary object of this clause is to find accommodation for foreign Embassies and High Commissioners and people of that kind and therefore we agreed that any house of which the standard rent was less than Rs. 200 should not come within the scope of this clause. The third modification to which Government agreed was that in houses of which the landlords got possession for their own residence, whether through Court or on derequisition, should not be touched by Government, should not be taken on lease by Government under this Clause. I hope, Sir, that after these modifications, this clause will now prove generally acceptable to Honourable Members in this House.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural) And to landlords and tenants also!

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: As also to landlords and tenants. These are very substantial concessions.

Sir, this Bill is a control measure under which Government have not reserved any powers for their own officers except for the very limited purpose comprised in Clause 11 of this Bill. This is a control measure of which the working will be entirely in the hands of the people concerned, which means the landlords, the tenants, and the sub-tenants. And I hope and trust that by leaving execution to the people concerned, subject of course to any disputes being taken to the Small Causes Court there will be no question of corruption or any of the other abuses which are generally associated with controls. I also hope, Sir, that given a spirit of compromise, a spirit of live and let live, a general spirit of accommodation, which is after all essential when we are going to live in the same community and are parts of the same community, this Bill should prove entirely workable and there should be very little occasion for anyone to go to the Court of Small Causes to increase litigation. Government are very anxious not to increase litigation—but for a few hard cases it is inevitable that litigation will have to be provided for. The Bill as now drafted, I hope and trust, will be such that it will prove workable and will not lead to any opposition or trouble.

There are two other small points which I would like to stress. This is not an all-India measure. It only applies to two small areas, the province of Delhi and the province of Ajmer-Merwara. Secondly, this Bill does not impinge on any questions of high policy. It is a very mundane, commonplace affair. It only affects these two small areas and there are no questions of high policy involved. Actually all the other provinces in India have already passed their Rent Control Bills and it cannot be said that the Government of India should set up a model which other provinces may copy or which other provinces may follow. I would humbly request Honourable Members to keep these points of view in mind, because that would narrow down the discussion. That is why I am particularly mentioning both these points.

There is just one more point which I would like to mention. No Bill, unless it is in the nature of an encyclopædia can possibly provide for every exception. There are hundreds of exceptions and there are hundreds of hard cases. We know that landlords have got their difficulties; we know that tenants have got their difficulties; and we know also that sub-tenants have also got their difficulties. It cannot be said that all landlords are bad or that all tenants are good. There are good landlords and there are bad landlords; but, the majority of them, I presume, are just ordinary landlords. The same thing applies to tenants also. There are good and bad tenants, but the bulk of them, I presume, are just ordinary common people. If we try to meet every possible exception and every possible case of hardship by introducing amendments to this Bill, the Bill will swell to the size of an encyclopædia, I am quite sure that it will create more difficulties, more anomalies and more hardships than we may expect to avoid by petty minor amendments. I have some experience of the allotment of buildings in Delhi and I have found that for each case of hardship which we tried to remove by making a special exception, we introduced fresh anomalies, fresh cases of hardship and fresh grievances. For one grievance which we sought to remove, we had ten grievances freshly created, simply because of the amendment which we introduced to remove one grievance. I would therefore earnestly entreat all Honourable Members to think of these difficulties and not to try to meet every possible case of hardship. We will have to leave these cases of hardship to be dealt with by common sense, by a spirit of compromise, by a spirit of give and take. It is quite impossible to provide for all such cases, in a Bill of this kind. If we take a general view and meet out rough and ready justice to the bulk of the community, that is the best that we can achieve. I feel that the Bill as it has now emerged from the Select Committee, together with the amendments on which there has been informal agreement in the lobbies, will be a good working proposition and the House should have no hesitation in accepting the Bill. With these words Sir I commend my motion to the House.

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That the Bill to make better provision for the control of rents in certain areas in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce). Sir, before the avalanche of diverse and partisan amendments breaks out on this House, I felt that I should like to supplement what Mr. Gokhale has very ably put in detail. I should like to supplement it by a few general ideas on this subject for the consideration of the Members of this House, so that they may be able to look upon the problem from a proper perspective and in the context of the economic conditions in which we exist at present and how this is a problem which society as a whole has to deal with and in which it is, not possible, as Mr. Gokhale said, to please every one or to provide for every type of case.

What is the real position? There was a shortage of houses in this country in many cities before the war broke on us because these cities were expanding. The populations were growing, the governments that were situated in these cities were increasing the number of their departments and functions and generally there were many reasons leading to the growth of cities in the same manner in which cities in India have grown in the past and housing was short. As soon as houses were short, construction took place, when private unsatisfied parties offered a little higher rent, persons who had money, the land and the materials came forward to put up houses. This process has been stopped on account of the war. We are in an abnormal situation. At the same time, this is only a palliative measure, a temporary measure, which does not put an end to the problem and the problem still remains with us.

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

It is my prediction that in the city of Delhi in the next ten years, even if building material is plentiful, a shortage of houses will still continue, for the simple reason that the growth is faster than houses can be constructed. At the present moment the problem has become absolutely abnormal. Building material is not available. Explanations of different kinds are given, some of which are not satisfactory. This Government is, in my opinion, not carrying out its own declared policy of assisting housing on a large scale, assisting it in every possible manner. Last year the Government announced that houses the construction of which is concluded in two years will be permitted to go free of incometax for a period of two years. That was a very sound measure but I do not think there will be many houses constructed this year, the owners of which will be able to take advantage of this encouragement given by government. There are specific causes of discouragement; as a matter of fact, in the distribution of building material there is almost as much failure and frustration as there is in the matter of cloth and food and their distribution, about which the general public complains.

There is a very abnormal situation now. It is a vicious circle. Capital which would otherwise be directed to building houses is not being so directed. The flow of investment in this particular field has been definitely checked on account of the Rent Act itself. I do not say that for that reason the Rent Act should not come up. I am only pointing out that we have to go to the root of the problem. The permanent solution of this difficulty for all parties and sections concerned is going to be an increased supply of houses and for this purpose, while the Rent Act has to remain, what other measures is this Government taking in order to increase the number of houses which can be constructed in a given time and increased to such an extent that those who might be in difficulties might get suitable accommodation. Even if building material were available today, the cost of replacement has become heavy. As regards the return to the new amount of additional money which is to be put in in order to construct a house, between the economic rent and the controlled rent there is a vast gap and so long as this gap remains nobody is going to build new houses in order to receive less than the reasonable return on the heavily increased cost of building in this country.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North West Frontier Province. General): There is no control on the rent of new buildings.

Mr. Manu Subedar: There is no control on the rent of new buildings under this Bill, which is a very sound measure but there is in the rest of India and I am addressing the Government of India on the general problem which they have not been able to tackle. So long as this gap remains the difficulty must arise. Who is going to bridge this gap, say by a subsidy from the Centre or the Provinces or by some other measure of encouragement such as reducing the transport and other charges on building materials or in some other way. I submit that this is a problem which is too complicated but it is the only solution in the long run. Do we want rent controls and rent control bills in this House and in every provincial legislature in the country to come up for the next ten or twenty years with regularity with all the suppressed and visible irritations and bad feelings of partisanship on both sides to come up and worry the legislators' lives out of them with these issues? Sir, I think I speak the feelings of most members of this House who must have been flooded with literature, with requests for interviews and with arguments galore. Those of us who through error or through courtesy gave interviews once or twice found ourselves working against a solid rock. The argument was decidedly on one side and no other consideration would count with the people who tried to represent these matters. Sir, I do not blame them. It is our duty as legislators to hear all sides and to do the right thing under the circumstances which I believe has been very largely done in this Bill. But I do say that we must take a long view. This is only a temporary solution

We must take a long view of this problem and make an attempt to provide a permanent solution so that this Legislature and other Legislatures may not be constantly troubled with this problem over and over again and for the mortification of not satisfying either side fully.

Can you satisfy the two sides to this question fully when there is a marked deterioration in human nature in this country? The landlord, if he has got any rights, not only uses all of them fully but he stretches them out and tries to abuse them. The tenant, if he has got certain rights, not only uses them fully but tries to abuse them. I do not say there are not good tenants and landlords. There is no attempt to paint the whole community black because the whole community consists either of landlords or tenant; one has to be either the one or the other. I do not say everybody is bad. But I do say there is a considerable deterioration, there is no room for kindness, for courtesy, for consideration of the other man's difficulties, for imagination, for justice and for humanity in the dealings between man and man. This deterioration is not only in this field but in every field. This problem which we have to consider is a social problem.

Now, Sir, there have been many forms of abuse by landlords in the sense they have increased rents, secured evictions and evaded their responsibility for repairs. There have been equally on the other side many abuses by the tenant. The biggest abuse by the tenant has been when the tenant momentarily becomes a landlord in the sense that he in his turn sublets.

Sir, the evil of subletting is twofold. It is not only objectionable from the point of view of the tenant but from the point of view of the community as a whole. Whereas the law prohibits the landlord from profiteering from the public and from the users of house property, the same law is blind and has omitted to make any provision against a similar profiteering by the tenant who sublets. Cases have been known in Bombay where some of the Iraqi Jews and evacuees have flats of three rooms for Rs. 250. It was an ironical justice, Sir, that each of the three rooms was occupied by a British officer who paid Rs. 350 for each room. Such profiteering by the sub-tenant has taken place and it is a bad phenomenon. I am very happy that abuse by the tenant of his rights and privileges has been met with in this case. Similarly, abuses by the landlords as far as they could be seen and met, have also been met in this case.

With regard to borderline issues, as my Honourable friend Mr. Gokhale said, nobody can provide for all kind of conditions and cases. With regard to that the expedient which we have found useful in Bombay is to have a high level officer like the Rent Controller and the Collector of Bombay to have certain powers to determine the *bona fides* of parties when they make allegation, against one another. The expedient has been differed here, but there is no reason to suppose that having regard to the provisions already made it is not a considerable improvement over the past. It would be good sense and we would be doing duty to ourselves and to the House and following the wise words which fell from you, Sir, if we were to examine amendments not in the spirit as to whether absolute justice is done to one or the other side, whether full provision is made for every contingency, but with a view to expedite the progress of business in this House and generally to see whether a rough and ready justice is not already made by the Select Committee. I may say here in my experience of Select Committees there was not one Select Committee in which there was a more determined effort on the part of certain members to press every little point. At every little word, every comma, there was hesitation and a new point of view urged. In other words, Sir, in my opinion this has been so thoroughly sifted out by the Select Committee that this House ought not to devote too much time on this.

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

Now, Sir, the first social purpose which we have in view is that we should avoid economic displacement which is a very great tragedy in the life of everybody. There is no man, either highly placed or low in life, to whom if you said, either immediately or even with some little notice, 'Go away and find out any place you like', it would not be a terrible thing. The provision that though the sub-tenants were not there legally, yet they should not be displaced, that the burden of this Bill should fall on as small a number of people as possible, that the inconvenience and loss should occur to as small a number as possible, was the guiding principle and I am very happy that that principle has been secured. Sir, the position really is like this. It is like passengers in a shipwrecked boat where the boat is small, accommodation is still smaller and where everybody has to go on short rations and restrictions in the common interest. But when the shipwrecked boat sometime reaches the shore and people are picked up, so far as this is concerned, unless the Government of India make housing a major problem, a major issue, and take special steps, unless they examine, not in the narrow departmental sense of 'This is not my concern, this is the concern of such and such department', unless they examine this subject which in my opinion oversteps the boundary of one single Department—it covers several Departments' activities together—there will be no solution to this problem. I submit, Sir, that there should be a Housing Board appointed by the Government of India to take into account considerations with regard to the difficulties of the building of new houses which are many and which at present go unaccounted for. Everybody who attempts to construct a new house is being sent from pillar to post. There is no clear directive. The Provincial Government says the Government of India are concerned. They say 'we are not concerned, it is the Steel Controller's business'. Somebody else says it is somebody else's business. Even competent parties who attempt in these days to build a new house give it up as a bad job. That is a defect in administration. Both Central and provincial which I would strongly urge should be remedied by the establishment of a small Board, of both officials and non-officials covering all the Departments if necessary. Sir, this is a major issue and I would even like one of the Ministers to be made directly responsible for this and all the Departments can say to him: 'We would give you all the facilities you want'. If we do not do it, we will be caught in the vicious circle. Your real problem will go from one difficulty to a more serious difficulty in future and when that arises the outcry from different sections who are affected will be still greater. In order to avoid that it is my suggestion that the Government of India should actively enquire, should receive suggestions and generally see what is the difficulty to provide capital flowing into house constructions. This problem is very important not merely with regard to this; it is of great importance as an anti-inflationary measure. The money in the pockets of people who are waiting to build houses would then go into the proper field. It is of still greater importance from the point of view of labour. There is not a single trade which can absorb men with greater facility and in larger number than new construction. We find all miscellaneous men and there is an extraordinary amount of money being spent by the Defence Department on resettlement of soldiers. Considerable sums of money are being spent by the Labour Department on much the same object and this complete waste of public funds which these two departments are indulging in could be saved if a similar effort were made in order to increase the amount of capital flowing into house building, because construction can absorb in my opinion something like half a million people straight away in the course of the next three months if this Government will only act promptly and rightly.

What is then my message to representatives both of landlords and tenants? My message to them is this. The problem has been thoroughly sifted, as far as human ingenuity could do it. Provision has been made to satisfy every

interest as far as possible and Government have shown a very praiseworthy attitude in this matter and beyond securing the major issues, namely, that the tenant will not be evicted and that his rent will be controlled up to a particular point, Government have shown a very praiseworthy spirit in this matter and therefore we ought to curtail and check discussion of it and I would advise all those interests who remain dissatisfied with the measure as it finally emerges from this House to unite and to urge on the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to increase house building activity which is the ultimate and final solution of this difficulty. The present Act is a mere palliative and the final solution is the increased supply of new buildings and facilities to be created by the Government of India. Sir, I support the Bill.

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division, Muhanabad Rural): I think the best principle of law is that there should be no restriction on anybody's property and nobody should be restricted in the use of his property as he likes but sometimes this law has to be changed in the interests of the general public. Here the landlord has got his property and he wants to use it but we are going to curtail his liberties but we can only do so to the extent which is just and proper. Therefore this House is in the position of a judge. Here are landlords who want to use the property as they like. The tenants say that if the landlords use their property as they like, what shall be our fate. So this House is in the position of a judicial officer who should see that proper justice is done to both. The landlord should not suffer because the tenants want to take advantage of their position and create a kind of propaganda. The tenants should not suffer because the landlord wants to become greedy and wants to take advantage of his position and oust a tenant with a view to let the premises on a higher rent to somebody else. This is the principle to which the Committee devoted a good deal of attention and they have found that a *via media* should be found which may be satisfactory to all people concerned and I think the Select Committee has brought out a Bill which should be acceptable to everybody.

I know that there are many who will not be content with the provisions of the Bill. In some cases this will hit them hard. Some tenants may feel that they will suffer. Some landlords also will feel the same way. But we cannot take solitary cases into consideration. We have to see that the general public do not suffer. One idea is in the minds of people and that has been given great publicity which I hope the House will drive away from their minds. It is this, that all tenants are poor and all landlords are rich. This is absolutely wrong.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Quite so.

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: This is the propaganda going on. Some cases have come to my notice and I trust also many Honourable Members who sat on the Select Committee. There are certain widows who own no other property except a house which is bringing Rs. 30 or 40 a month. They have let out the house probably to a man whose income is Rs. 300 a month. This was let in 1939. In 1939 the widow could certainly manage to live on Rs. 30 a month a moderate life. Her children may have been small at this time but during the last 6 or 7 years the children have grown up. Prices have gone up four times. Now, are we to force this widow to continue to let her building for the same old Rs. 30 a month when the tenants' income has probably risen to Rs. 600 by this time. Now, who is poor, the tenant or the landlord.

There are many people who own property worth Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 a month. In 1939, the man could live in decent life on 200 a month but what you could get for 200 in 1939 you cannot get for 800 now. The tenants have also increased their income. The population has increased, the cost of living has gone up. Everybody is doing many times more business than what they were doing before the war while you have taken into consideration the small tenants paying Rs. 25 a month you have ignored the landlord who has also been hit hard by the increased cost of living and the increase in the prices of all other commodities.

[Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan.]

There are many cases which have been hit hard. I do not think that in a measure of this kind proper justice could be done in every case. Unless we allow free play to economic considerations, see how many houses are available, how many people are wanting them and so on, we cannot do proper justice. When we are curtailing the rent in the interest of the people, I do not think we should take into consideration each and every case. Now, let us see who are mostly the people who are tenants? Before the war the population of Delhi was not even 7 lakhs during winter; in summer it used to be something like 8 to 5 lakhs. The population now is about 12 lakhs throughout the year. This shows that the tenants have mostly come from outside and they are not the Delhi people. Now, is it right that the people who live in Delhi and who own property in Delhi should be penalised to an extent which may be unbearable for them and that people who come from outside and who make lot of money in business should not pay anything out of their gains to the landlords? This, to my mind, is quite unjust and unreasonable. If it were a permanent measure, I would have gone for this principle, but as it is a temporary measure I do not mind it. Let us see if a tenant who is living in a residential house is paying 10 per cent. of his income. If he was paying 10 per cent. of his income in 1939, is he still paying at the same rate for his house rent?

Shri Sri Prakasa: We are charged about 25 per cent. of our allowances.

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan: The case of the Honourable Members of this House is different. They do not receive any salary; they receive only an allowance and they come here at a great sacrifice. They can make plenty of money in their profession, but they come here at a great sacrifice.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Why are we charged so highly?

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan: I do not want to go into that question. As I was saying, if a man has got the capacity to pay house rent at the rate of 10 per cent. of his income, why should he insist to pay only 1 per cent. of his income, which was the case in 1939.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: What about the cases of those people who have a fixed income like the school teachers and Government servants? They have not had any increase at all.

Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan: There are some people who have got fixed income and they have had no increase in their incomes since 1939. But such cases are very rare, because every employee of the Government of India has had an increment. It may be that the school teachers have had no increment. I know that even a carpenter who used to get Rs. 1-4 a day, is now getting Rs. 4-8 a day and the labourer who used to get 7 annas a day, is now getting Rs. 1-8 a day. Do you think these people whose income has been increased by three times should continue to pay the rent at the fixed rate while they pay everything else at a much enhanced rate? If this is allowed, then all those people who depend entirely on the income from rent will be hard hit. We should therefore consider the matter coolly when we have to decide between the two conflicting interests. Even if we want to put a restriction on the rent for residential property, we should see that that restriction does not hit the owners of the property hard and unjustly. We took all these matters into consideration, both as regards business premises and residential buildings, including the cases of sub-tenants, and we came to the conclusion that is embodied in the report of the Select Committee. I hope the House will support this decision which has been arrived at after mature consideration. There are 140 Members in this House and if every Member has got his own ideas about each clause, then there will be so many ideas. When a Bill of this kind is referred to a Select Committee, it is threshed out there and a certain decision is arrived at which should be generally acceptable to all. So, I hope the House will accept the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee and will not introduce many changes in it. After all, we have got a very limited time and if we do not pass this Bill into law, what would be the fate of those people whom we want to give protection.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 20th March, 1947. English translation given below.—Ed. of D.). Sir, I was just pointing out the difficulties with which we are faced, so far as the housing problem is concerned but I do not wish to dilate any more on it.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi: General): Sir, I am thankful to the Honourable Member, Mr. Gokhale who, according to his promise, gave full freedom to the members of the Select Committee to amend the Bill according to their views. Accordingly, if the Bill as it went to the Select Committee and the Bill as it has emerged therefrom be compared it will be found that the Select Committee has given good attention to its clauses and have considered it from every aspect. Government placed no hinderance in our way and we are

1 P.M. thankful to them. They have assured the House that if the Members would amend it they would have no objection. Lot of time was devoted to it in the Lobbies. It then went to the Select Committee who has amended it. I hope time will not now be wasted and the amendments which have been fully discussed will be accepted by the Government. Sir, I am fully at one with my friends in this, and it was greatly stressed at the time when the Bill went to the Select Committee, that until a large number of houses was built the problem could not be solved. The scarcity of the houses can be judged. The anxiety and the running about of landlords and tenants testifies to the shortage of houses. Both sides were justified in their expression of grief and anger. Unluckily or luckily I am a resident of Delhi and so it concerns me more. At first the Bill was nicknamed Landlords' Bill and now they say that the Select Committee has made it the Tenants' Bill. The Bill is neither a landlords' Bill nor a tenants' Bill. The Select Committee have tried to do the utmost justice to both. Sir, if you will look at the amendments made by the Select Committee you will find that the most important amendments which have been made with respect to the rent relates to clause 9. When it went to the Select Committee the standard rent was fixed on the basis of 1946 rent and an increase of 1/3rd was recommended over it, but the Select Committee after consideration fixed the standard rent on the basis of 1939 rent instead of 1946 and the increase in the grade scale has been calculated on the basic rent of 1939. The increase in rent in the various provinces in this connection has also been considered by the Select Committee and the graded scale proposed by the Select Committee is right.

My friend, Khan Mahammad Yamin Khan has said that consideration should be paid to small landlords. I feel for them and wish justice should be done to them but I am afraid if efforts were made to justify their case the problem will remain unsolved! According to proposed grade scale an increase of Rs. 12-8-0 is made in a rent of Rs. 25. My learned friend has referred to widows. So far as widows and orphans are concerned I agree that something should be done for them. I think all the members of the House have sympathy for them but there are a lot of difficulties in the way. First of all if a separate standard is fixed for the property of widows it will not look nice to have different rents from tenants living in the same street. I find no other solution for it than this that the tenant renting a widow's property should have a regard for her and pay more rent. I request my learned friends to find out a way out so that it may not be considered an offence.

Sir, so far as the tenants are concerned the most important objection made on their behalf was that they should not be evicted. Regarding the increase in the rate of rent the important provision is in clause 9 and it may be laid down that tenant living in a house should not be evicted. The report submitted by the Select Committee makes provisions not only for the landlords but for the tenants also inasmuch as it lays down that tenants should not be evicted. So the tenants should rest content that there is no question of eviction now in the

[Laia Deshbhandhu Gupta.]

Bill. Moreover, if a government servant retires from service the landlord may get his residence vacated for himself. So far, however, as I have considered Section 9 I have come to the conclusion that no scope for evictions, has been left in the Bill. The tenants must therefore feel pleased that their greatest demand has been met with. It has been decided that suits now pending in the Courts should not be meddled with but such suits will be very few. Sir, the tenants should be happy that the question of eviction no longer remains in the Bill. Moreover the tenants should be satisfied that the reduced graded scale is a fair scale. It is far less than when the Bill was sent to the Select Committee. So far as business is concerned, Sir, the rent for business premises has been doubled. Keeping in view that in these days people are prepared to pay Rs. 15,000 as *pugree* to the landlords this does not appear to be a hardship. There is another thing, Sir, which tenants do and which we should take into consideration and that is sub-letting. I emphasized it in my first speech that while the leased houses were mentioned in the ordinance no safeguard was proposed for the sub-tenants whose number is many thousands. I think the Select Committee have done greatest service to the sub-tenants. You will find, Sir, from their recommendations that they have not only recognized them but have proposed a fair rent for them also and their position is the same as that of the tenants. The second proposal is regarding tenants who number thousands and who were charging from their sub-tenants whatever rent they desired. A person paying Rs. 20 for a Government quarter was charging Rs. 100 from his sub-tenant. Now they won't be able to charge excessive rent from their sub-tenants. Sir, I consider that the Select Committee by recognizing sub-tenancy have afforded relief to thousands of sub-tenants. This has at the same time done a great good to the tenants also because, although they were charging very high rents, subtenancy was an important ground for eviction. All the ordinances which were issued in this connection held sub-tenancy one of the grounds for eviction, but now the Select Committee have provided a safeguard for them. Those who were realizing rent clandestinely have now got the right to realize it openly. Tenants can now realize rent from their sub-tenants. The Select Committee have not overlooked the landlords also. Their greatest complaint was that the tenants had become owners of the houses, they keep sub-tenants and charge very high rents from them. The fact was that the tenants wanted to become landlords without the obligation of paying house-tax, etc. They realize large sums from the sub-tenants and pay no heed to the landlords. But, now in the Bill which has emerged from the Select Committee while the sub-tenants are recognized the landlords are also considered. Now they will get half of the rent which the tenants realize from sub-tenants. The landlords, therefore, have no occasion to complain now. Moreover, tenants will not keep sub-tenants without the consent of the landlords. This shows that justice has been done to both landlords and sub-tenants. Sir, however, so far as the sub-tenancy is concerned, Select Committee's report relates only to residences. At that time the question of residences was before the Select Committee. But is it not the duty of the Government to look to the interests of the business premises also? It is correct to some extent that this question is not so important. The opinion expressed by the Select Committee however, is good. I think it will cause great trouble to a large number of people if the question of business premises was left unconsidered. There is a large number of businessmen in New Delhi and if no relief is afforded the result will be confusion. I suggest that sub-tenancy may also be recognized for business premises. I therefore appeal to my Honourable friend and to the House to extend the same recognition to the business sub-tenants as they have extended to the residential sub-tenants giving at the same time a fair treatment to the landlords also. This can be done in this way. In the case of sub-tenancy, we have increased 25 per cent. rent for residential premises, for business premises, we may increase 60 per cent. out of which we may give 25 per cent. to the tenants and 25 per cent. to the landlords. My learned friend might think 50 per cent. increase as too high.

I may remind him that this increase is not to be levied from poor tenants but from businessmen who keep shops in Connaught Place to make money. There should be nothing against it.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock. Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, I was pointing out the amendments made by the Select Committee with regard to tenants. Looking from the landlords' point of view, Sir, we find that the Select Committee have endeavoured to provide for the realization of rent from the tenants. Landlords have always been complaining that they could not realize their rent. They said that the rent was less and its realization was attended with a lot of troubles. Legal proceedings have to be instituted and a lot of botheration has to be faced. In this connection, Sir, the Select Committee have proposed that in future suits will be decided by Small Causes Courts. This will reduce the duration of the suits and the lawful complaint of the landlords will be removed. Besides, the landlords complained that the tenants have occupied the residences and their compounds in such a way that no further construction work can be carried out in the compounds. The Bill lays down that the landlords were free to construct buildings in the vacant places and the tenants shall have no power to stop them. Sir, when we look at the Bill we find that efforts have been made to remove lawful complaints of the landlords. I want to draw your and the attention of the House, Sir, to the provisions in the Bill which in spite of the recommendations of the Select Committee require amendments. They are as follows —

(1) So far as the sub-letting of business premises is concerned it should be validated. Sub-letting of portions by tenants to shopkeepers should be legalized just as permission has been given to the tenants of residential premises to sub-let a portion of the house. There is no doubt that it is the right of the landlord to let any portion of the premises but since sub-tenancy has been recognised it should be extended to business premises also. At present hundreds of small shopkeepers, such as tailors, barbers, etc., are engaged in business. If they were asked to vacate their shops it will be a great hardship to them. They will not be able to go anywhere. I therefore think it proper that their sub-tenancy should be legalized and a reasonable rent should be fixed. Just as I have given notice in my amendment a portion of the rent should go to the landlord.

(2) Just as the sub-tenants have been disregarded there is another class of tenants which has not been mentioned in the Bill. Select Committee has also not taken notice of them. They are the people who live in their houses and ply their professions. For instance, there are many bungalows in New Delhi where doctors carry on their practice. The landlords object that the bungalows were residential but these people ply their professions there and earn large sums of money. Under the eviction clause those people could be evicted by landlords who need the premises for their own use. Sir this has been a practice for a long time in New Delhi. People have been living in their houses and practising their profession. My proposal is and I think the Members of the House and the Government will accept it without any objection that for such residential premises which may be called business cum residential premises a new standard of rent may be fixed and they may be considered business premises for the purposes of fixation. I think that the intermediate scale between residential and business premises that is $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 50 per cent. above the residential rent may be fixed for this sort of houses. This will remove the complaints of the landlords and the tenant who is carrying out his profession will also be to a great extent protected.

Of the rest of the proposals placed before the House I also want that the Government should give an assurance that the rent of the houses acquired by the Government shall also be fixed according to the standard rate. This question was raised in the Select Committee but it was said on behalf of the Government

[Lala Deshbandhu Gupta.]

that since those houses were on lease and not on rent they cannot be dealt with in this Bill. I think that it is not difficult for the Government to give an assurance that the standard rent which will be charged from other houses will also be charged from houses acquired by the Government.

Sir, so far as eviction is concerned if you will look to clause (9), you will find that under its sub-clauses (h) and (i) tenants can be evicted. It is laid down that tenants could be evicted if they contravened the terms of the lease entered with the Government. In reality, the Government holds the landlord responsible. It is the duty of the landlords of houses built on lands leased by the Government to fulfill the terms of the lease but the landlords' plea is reasonable that the person who contravenes the terms is the tenant and not he. For the notice which is served by the Government two provisions (h) and (i) have been introduced in clause 9. Keeping it in view I suggest that a general clause may be introduced which may draw the attention of the court to the provisions over and above the eviction clauses mentioned in the Bill to ensure that no injustice is done to anybody and that the tenants have room to present their case and to prove the extent of their responsibility. So far as the question of contravening the terms of the Government or Improvement Trust lease is concerned one aspect of it is this that the notice is served by the Government on the landlord and the tenant has no knowledge of it but he is evicted for contravening these terms. An amendment has, therefore, been offered requesting that whenever the Government gives notice of contravening the terms, a copy of it should also be sent to the tenant giving him an opportunity to remove the complaints and save himself from eviction. I think it is a fair amendment and the House and the Government will have no hitch in accepting it. One of the rightful complaints of the landlords is that there are tenants who are millionaires but live in rented houses paying the rent at the rate which was prevalent in 1939, while for their own properties acquired after 1939—in 1942-43—they charge many times more rent. It is with respect to such cases that tenants and landlords who pay less rent and realize more rent for the new houses which they have built will be forced to go to their own places. An amendment has been proposed in this connection suggesting that tenants and landlords who can build their own houses shall be asked to vacate and go to their own houses. This amendment will entitle landlords after it becomes a law that people who have their own houses shall have to vacate and go there. These are principal matters for which amendments have been moved. They have been considered at length by the Government and I believe there will be no difficulty in passing them. Another complaint of the tenants is that the section sets up only one machinery of small causes courts. It may be that a case has not been properly decided there. Consequently, Sir, an amendment has been proposed that so far as eviction is concerned they may have the right of appeal in such cases to the District Judge. It is a reasonable amendment and its acceptance will remove this complaint. Sir, I will not take much of your time. I may, however, incidentally support what my learned friend Mr. Manu Subedar said this morning that the right way of solving this problem is to build more houses. I stressed this point in the early stages of the Bill that Government should afford opportunities to build more houses and today I once more strongly appeal to the Government in this connection. My learned friend Mr. Gokhale has said that keeping in view the priority in building this shall have no application on future constructions. But the Government have given no assurance that they will not do so. I say that so far as the Provincial P. W. D. is concerned it is guilty of criminal negligence in this connection. It has done nothing up to this time to show that it has made any effort to solve the problems of Delhi. Improvement Trust in Delhi is an institution which can do a lot of service to the city but to our misfortune if the Honourable Member for Works, Mines and Power would look to the activities of the Improvement Trust he will find that the Trust has done nothing except making a few crores of rupees by acquiring some land and properties for a few rupees and selling them for lakhs of rupees.

I think Government had no right to spend thirty lakhs of rupees on the 'Anti-malarial Scheme out of the one and half crores of rupees earned by the Improvement Trust. I think it was the legal right of the people of Delhi that the money realized from them should be spent on slum clearance. Two or three Viceroy's and Mahatma Gandhi after seeing the sweepers' quarters expressed very strong condemnation saying that the Government pay no heed to the Delhi slums. Whenever a question was raised it was answered by the repetition of long programme of the Improvement Trust. The House is informed that the Trust have large schemes in hand. The fact, however, is that if you will see to the progress of the Improvement Trust for the year, you will find that no building activities were undertaken nor have they done anything towards slum clearance. Like *baniyas* they have only tried to increase their own capital. They have been selling land at Rs. 30 per sq. yard which only five years ago they bought for Rs. 4 per sq. yard. Although Improvement Trust make so much money by sale of land, they have made no buildings on the vacant lands. They have sold 3,000 plots which are lying vacant. If the Improvement Trust had tried and the Government had afforded facilities for building there would have been 3,000 houses built today. Government do not give facilities for building houses but they are realizing lease rent at the exorbitant rate of 2½ per cent. I would, with due deference, urge the Department of Works, Mines and Power that if they desired that the problem of Delhi may find a solution they must adopt ways which are essential for its solution. I have a note which will show you what difficulties come in the way of obtaining building materials. You will find that the only excuse of the Chairman of the Trust is that quota of steel is only 125 tons.

Mr. President: I am afraid all this is not quite relevant

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, I was just pointing out the difficulties with which we are faced, so far as the housing problem is concerned but I do not wish to dilute any more on it.

Sir, I should say that it is the duty of the Honourable Member for Works, Mines and Power to look to this difficulty. Out of the steel which is being given 113 tons is given to the makers of trunks and only 12 tons is given for buildings. Similar are the cases with cement, lime, etc. I want to tell you that in a civilized world houses are as essential as food, water and air. What a pity that in Delhi, the Capital of India this problem begs for solution? In the year for 5 or 6 months people from outside come and reside here. It is not a question only for the comfort of the people of Delhi but for the convenience of the people of the whole of India. The outsiders, therefore, should take as much interest in it as the local people. They should help us and force the Government to give us more building material. Improvement Trust which is now being conducted as a profit concern should be converted into an institution rendering true service to the people so that it may also help us in solving this problem. I hope that the House will accept the amendments made by the Select Committee in the original Bill as well as those suggested by me. When the Bill comes to the House again Government will have no need to extend it after two years. The passing of this Bill will not only be an occasion for happiness for the members of this House, it will also make the mutual relations of the landlords and the tenants, pleasant.

In connection with electricity I will take only one minute of the House. My learned friend in charge of the Department of Works, Mines and Power has said that the Electricity Plant has been sold for Rs. 36,00,000 when the Housing problem comes before us we are told that without electricity it was useless to build new houses. I should request my learned friend to try to look at the problem of electricity with a point of view with which the people look at it and spend the money realized from electricity on the city's improvement.

Sir, in conclusion I shall recommend the House to pass the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, I propose to deal with only one defect in this Bill and that too very briefly. This Bill deals with the control of rents in the Province of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. That the rents must be controlled is, I think, admitted on all sides. There may be difference of opinion as to the extent to which the landlord should be permitted to increase the rent but so far as the need for control is concerned I do not think there is any controversy. Unfortunately in this Bill the Government of India have provided that in the case of new houses or houses built after 1944 and houses that may be built hereafter there should not be any control on the rents. This is one of the greatest defects of this Bill. This difference of treatment between the houses which were built before 1944 and after 1944 and houses that may be built hereafter leads to inequalities. In the first place, side by side you see a house which is rented for Rs. 25 and you see another having the same floor space and perhaps having the same facilities and amenities fetching a rent which is twice or three times the rent of the house which had been built previously. I feel that this inequality leads to unhealthy practices and also what we may call black-marketing. I therefore feel that the Government of India made a mistake in not controlling the rents of the new buildings and the Select Committee also made a mistake in not imposing control on the rents of these new buildings.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: I am afraid my Honourable friend has not correctly understood the meaning of this provision. The fact is that on houses built after 1944 we are not allowing any enhancement of rents. It is not that the house owners can put up the rents. The rents have already been fixed by the Rent Controller and we are not allowing any increase, as those rents were fixed up at a time when the enhancement had already taken place.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Bill provides that on new houses there is to be no control on rent. It is true that new houses built after 1944 will not be permitted to increase the rent but the houseowners were permitted to charge whatever rent they liked.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: No. It is open to any tenant to go to the Rent Controller and get the standard rent fixed by him.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, in our country there are large sections of people who cannot go to courts.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadian Rural) Not so in New Delhi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I do not know about New Delhi. I am talking about Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. I generally do not take upon myself the responsibility of speaking for the inhabitants of New Delhi. I feel, generally speaking, they are quite able to take care of themselves. Ordinary people belonging to the working classes and some others cannot afford to go to the law courts and pay the expenses of costly suits. I know what happens to those suits and generally people do not resort to courts knowing full well that they will have to spend large amounts of money in order to get the rents fixed. The justification given for not fixing the rents of new buildings is that the house building industry should be encouraged. If the house building industry is to be encouraged, the builders would need a certain amount of interest on their capital but they certainly do not expect that they should be permitted to charge any rent they like. Usually a capitalist wants a fair return on his capital. Therefore if you had provided for fixing a fair rent even on new houses, there would have been no discouragement to the building industry.

Sir, I feel that this problem of provision of sufficient houses cannot be dealt with in the way in which the Government of India proposes to do. They feel that by permitting landlords to charge any rent they like and making huge profits, they will encourage the building industry. In the first place,

what is the guarantee that a landlord who makes money out of a building when he has built will again reinvest it in the building industry. There may be some other industry in which he can make larger profits. He may invest the money which he makes out of his previous houses in some other industry. There is no guarantee even if you allow a landlord to make very large profits that the capital which he secures will be reinvested in the building industry. The best method of dealing with the problem of providing houses is that the Government of India should treat this problem very seriously. I am very glad that my honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar and some others referred to the need for the provision of new houses. But I think the provision of new houses in adequate numbers is not a thing which can be left to private builders.

3 P.M. If we leave the house-building programme to private builders we shall never get adequate housing. If we are anxious to supply good houses and adequate houses to the working classes and even to the lower middle classes the Government themselves will have to undertake the building programme. No private employers can build houses under the present circumstances and get a fair return. In countries like England Governments have realised this fact and the housing of the working classes is now considered to be the responsibility of the Government, either of the Central Government or of the provincial Governments, or that responsibility is sometimes thrown on the statutory local body. But in no country in the world at present is the private builder expected to build houses for the working classes. I therefore suggest to the Government of India that they should immediately take in hand a large programme for the provision of houses for the working classes. Some time ago the Government of India appointed a Committee to consider the question of provision of houses for industrial workers. That question was discussed not by the Works, Mines and Power Department but by the Labour Department. They held a tripartite conference on the question. They passed a resolution that the Government of India should take steps to see that houses may be provided for the working classes at economic rents. They also suggested that the houses to be built should provide decent housing accommodation. It was decided that the Government of India should create a Housing Board. Unfortunately Sir, we do not know what happened after that conference was held and that resolution was passed. I am told—it is only a rumour—that some Department of the Government of India advised the Labour Department that they should not undertake such an ambitious plan, that building materials were not available and therefore the appointment of a Housing Board would be a mistake. If a Board is appointed people would expect that Board to build houses and therefore the plan for appointing a Housing Board was dropped. I feel that the Government of India is neglecting the problem and neglecting it in my judgment unnecessarily and too long. If housing materials are difficult to obtain it is the duty of the Government of India to provide housing materials. It is not impossible for the Government of India to have more cement or to have little more iron or to have little more wood for the housing of the people in this country. I am sure that if the Government of India make a serious effort it should not be beyond their capacity to have more building materials for the housing of the people. I also feel that the Government of India can provide the necessary machinery for the building of new houses. I want the Government of India to realize that it is only the Government which can provide houses for the working classes. If the programme of houses for the working classes is left to private builders that programme will never be completed. This fact has been admitted all over the world and where the Government gives the building of houses for the working classes to private builders there the Government gives subsidies to the private builders so that the private builders may be able to build houses and charge economic rents and build houses which people would like to occupy. I would like the Government of India, if they feel that they are incapable of

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building houses themselves and if they feel that it is only the private builder who has the capacity to build houses, to come forward and give subsidies to the private builders so that houses can be built. It is true that giving subsidies to private builders is not enough. If the Government of India has not got the housing material even the subsidy to the private builder may not be of much use. Therefore the great problem as regards housing is also the problem of providing housing materials. I am sorry that the Government of India is neglecting this question for a long time. I would like them to take it up seriously.

In this connection I would also like to support the suggestion made by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar that if the housing question is to be tackled seriously, adequately and promptly then the Government of India should have a separate Ministry for Housing. It is only then that they will be able to deal with this question adequately and promptly. Take a small country like Great Britain. They have a separate Ministry for Housing. I do not know why a great country like India should not have a separate Ministry for Housing and why the housing of the people should be lumped up with several other Departments like Works, etc. There are several kinds of public works. There are irrigation and several other public works. Therefore I would suggest to the Government of India that they should have a separate Ministry for dealing with the question of housing. I would ask them to see the difference which is made in Great Britain in this respect. There they have a Housing Ministry and on account of the very fact that they have a separate Ministry, housing of the working classes and generally speaking housing in that country has made great strides. I would therefore suggest to the Government of India to take up this question of having a separate Ministry for looking after the question of the housing of the working classes.

Sir, a Bill of this kind is useful. I have no doubt about it. But the mere control of rents is not going to solve this problem. It is a palliative which may be useful for some time. But so long as landlords can secure higher rents there will be landlords who will try to get those higher rents by fair means or foul. I would therefore suggest to the Government of India not to be content with passing a legislation of this kind but take up seriously the question of building new houses.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, since the last speaker has discussed the question of rent I propose to confine myself to the question of eviction. To me it appears that the scope of eviction should have been more restricted in this Bill than has been provided for. Sir, I heard the Honourable the Works Secretary yesterday. He has promised to keep an open mind. On that assurance I shall make my suggestions in the hope that even as the House is through the Bill at different stages it will be possible for him to see his way to accept some changes if they commend themselves to him.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons in the original Bill it is stated

"It is feared the expiry of rent control measures in the present day conditions of general unrest may result in further hardship, discontent and possibly labour troubles."

It is presumed from this that the framers of the Bill was looking into the matter specifically from the point of view of labour. That means that that class should constitute the large body of tenantry in this Province of Delhi at least. I do not know much about Ajmer-Merwara. I do not also claim to know very much about Delhi but as I am here for the last one year I have had to come in contact with the problems of this place. I look at this Bill that has emerged from the Select Committee in order to see whether the problems which the Honourable Member in charge visualised, while bringing in this Bill, are avoided or adequately settled by the provisions which this Bill proposes to make. I certainly join my Honourable friend the Secretary who congratulated

the members of the Select Committee. Certainly they have made very useful additions and alterations but the very fact that even after the Select Committee's report has come out a large number of amendments have been forthcoming, most of them relating to this eviction and some amendments coming from members who served on the Select Committee so ably and delightfully—that shows that there is so much scope for discussing these things.

In the first place I would frankly submit that there should not have been provision for eviction except on the ground of default of payment and in this I am borne out even by the case of the Government supported by the case made out by other speakers. It is admitted that there is congestion of accommodation in Delhi. That is to say people cannot easily move from one house to another. Even the Government had recourse to requisitioning. The war is over. The war conditions have changed. Still the housing problem is so acute that Government has had to have recourse to requisitioning houses and properties. Therefore this applies with stronger force in the case of the ordinary people who are tenants. I think they should not be asked to quit peremptorily unless there are very strong reasons to ask them to go out. I have no sympathy with the tenant who does not pay rent regularly and if he does not pay after due notice, then he has to pay the penalty.

At the same time I join issue with the Deputy President who said that after all a man must be allowed to enjoy his private property except in special circumstances. I submit that to stick to that theory would be to indulge in anti-social activities. It is an accident that some people have got house property. It is equally an accident that some people have no houses of their own and people who can afford to let the houses to tenants should ordinarily be satisfied with getting rent. I do not grudge them a little more but it is a question of adjustment of convenience. Let the landlord get some good rent and let not the tenant be disturbed. The Deputy President said that the population of Delhi has increased very much. People from outside are coming and doing business. It is not their fault that they have been attracted to this metropolis. They have been here for years and years and simply because they came from outside it is neither justice nor wisdom to ask them to clear out in order to make room for the convenience of the landlords. This is neither sense nor justice. Let us make a maximum adjustment. I take the cue from the Secretary himself. He said that the Select Committee tried to steer a middle course but it is not steering a middle course. You are putting the landlord and the tenant against each other.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: How?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: My friend Mr. Ghani Khan asks 'How'. I must reply to him because he is my neighbour. It is said in clause 9 sub-clause (c) that when there is a *bona fide* requirement on the part of the landlords they will be able to eject the tenants. I will not quarrel with the elasticity of the expression '*bona fides*'. But assuming that there may be *bona fide* requirements on the part of the landlords, how is it to be adjusted with the *bona fide* interests of the tenants. You must look at both sides. I am a tenant in a particular place. My landlord's family has increased. Let him increase and multiply in happiness and peace but if he wants my blessings and the blessings of others also, before he seeks to get his own building for better accommodation for himself he must find a corner in the earth for me to go and conceal my head under. We have to make an adjustment and steer a middle course. There must be an adjustment. My friend Lala Deshbandhu Gupta referred to the courts and all that. To me it appears that it is not a question of litigation at all. After all it is not a question of right *versus* wrong. It is not a question of justice *versus* injustice. It is a question of maximum adjustment for the benefit of both the landlord and the tenant. Now, in the section it is provided that if the landlord has no other suitable accommodation, then the tenant must quit. This is preposterous. The law

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal.]
 should have provided that if the landlord has no other suitable accommodation, the tenant can be ejected only if he can get alternative accommodation. It is said that a large number of idle rich are the tenants. I have no grudge against the rich as such, although I have my sympathy with the poor people and I belong to that class of society who are not rich. Look at the large number of *bhungs*. Delhi is served not only by the millionnaires and multi millionnaires. It is also served by poor clerks, school masters, poor traders and dealers and also these *bhungs* who keep up the conservancy of Delhi. If they are placed at the mercy of the landlords, where will they stand? This is a two storeyed evil. In a large number of cases the landlords will try to eject the tenants because they want the accommodation for themselves and the tenants will be hard put to it to prove that the landlord has another suitable accommodation, because the law does not give any defence to the tenant in respect of his own convenience. The landlord who cannot make out a proper case will hold a pistol at the head of the tenant and every year at the point of the threat of new litigation he will go on taking more and more *puggies*. This is the evil which will start immediately. Then there is this farce of a protection. If the landlord does not use the building for his own accommodation within a year, the tenant can come and recover possession and claim damages. This is obviously impossible and it puts the evicted tenant in a position in which he cannot successfully take action against the landlord. There is nothing in the law which gives a guarantee of immunity to the tenant if the landlord occupies the new house and lets the old.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan).
 What is the solution? Do you mean to say that the landlord should go and find a house for the tenant?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: During the period of war years, they have managed to live without seeking to eject the tenants. Why should they not put up with a little more inconvenience for two years more?

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: The landlord has waited for six years. Will not the landlord become old in these 10 or 12 years?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: With the prospect of independence coming, he will become young and get a new lease of life. There are better inspirations ahead and people need not be happy only with the snatching away of small properties from helpless tenants. There should be other avenues of happiness. So, I submit that in my humble estimation you should put down the clause of eviction only on the ground of default in the payment of rent, otherwise you should maintain the *status quo*. My friend the Deputy President, referred to the widow and the helpless people. If there are widows, I do not know what is their number. But if the widows claim, then I am entirely at one with the Deputy President when he stated that there should be an assessment according to the index of prices, the landlord's income and also the tenant's income. If the landlord is a widow and ought to get a substantial increase in the rent and if the tenant is (Interruption). In this House even the lady Members are described as gentlemen. The other day,

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may proceed with his argument.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: The Deputy President was referring to the index of prices. If a tenant is rich and if he is saddled with an increment commensurate with his income, I have no objection. When the landlord and landlady is poor, they may deserve some sympathy. But will her poverty be solved by ejecting the tenant and throwing him on the streets? I do not understand this argument. Therefore, I would ask the Honourable Secretary to reconsider this question of ejection. He himself was aware of the limitations and the hardships because several times he himself pleaded that it is a temporary law, it is not a model law and it is not a perfect law. So far as it goes, it must give protection to the largest number of the Delhi people and not to one or two widows only. Our concern is the largest population and the largest population

in Delhi consists of tenants. Sir, we have to give the protection. Let us not confuse between the rich tenant and the poor tenant. They stand on the same category, because the rich tenant cannot build a house for himself because there is no material available for building a house. Similarly, a poor tenant also cannot give *pugree* money to a new landlord and get the house. Therefore, for the maximum safety and for the least line of resistance let us maintain the *status quo* and not disturb the tenantry from where they are today.

Now, Sir, there is one matter which comes in this connection, namely, the question of going to courts. Yesterday my friend Khan Abdul Ghami Khan had a very pleasant fling at lawyers and he was assured by one of the Members that lawyers do not really invite litigation. If Khan Abdul Ghami Khan had been a lawyer, he would have understood that. We do not want litigation at all and I think the purpose of this legislation could be better served by avoiding litigation and by setting up Conciliation Boards. What will these people do? As I said, it is not a question of right versus wrong it is a question of accommodating the convenience of one with the convenience of another. So, there we could have set up Conciliation Boards. My friend Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, who is a citizen and a representative of Delhi, and my friend Mr. Mukat Bihari Lal Bhargava, who is a representative of Ajmer-Merwara, could be the members of this Conciliation Board. We could have Conciliation Boards on which Municipal Commissioners could sit and also the representatives of the Legislature. They have got knowledge of things and they should be given all power, liberty and duty of making adjustments. If they come across a case in which a landlord is helpless—probably he was in Government service and he has retired and he has got a house in Delhi,—naturally they would start with all sympathy in his favour. This Conciliation Board will try to find some corner somewhere for the tenant to go, so that that gentleman can come and live in his house for the rest of his life in peace. Then, there may be other cases in which the landlord wants the new house only to please his vanity, because suitability and convenience are very elastic terms. In that case the Conciliation Board would find that although it may be said that if the house were given to the landlord it would inure to his benefit and advantage, still if the tenant is ejected he would go to the wall. Therefore, they will refuse. There is no provision in the law to safeguard the tenant in the matter of his convenience and safety. But if Conciliation Boards were set up, then by their local knowledge, by their superior acquaintance with the facts and the circumstances of the places and by their knowledge of the parties they could certainly be better able to arrive at adjustments than could be done by the law courts.

- Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta also referred to the appellate powers to be given. I submit that to make a matter triable summarily and then to give some authority appellate power is very inconsistent and confusing. After all, courts which deal with things summarily seldom record evidence. If they record evidence, they refer to it only as an indication of their impression, and the impression of one Judge may not be conveyed to the other Judge, the appellate authority. Therefore, if it is desired that the appellate authority should be given, then regular courts should be maintained as they were in the original Bill. After all, it is a life and death question. Some landlords may be able to use the provisions of this law to squeeze tenants out of their houses and then throw them into a condition which will be extremely undesirable and miserable. Therefore, let them have some judicial protection if things are going to be done through courts.

Now, Sir, there is one class of tenants for which I am feeling very much. The question was put probably by my friend Mr. Tamizuddin Khan and Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta said in reply that there was no provision for safeguarding those tenants who have already been directed to be ejected. This is very unfair. After all, if landlords had taken possession of the building, we have nothing more to say. It is a *fait accompli*. But in those case in which decrees have been passed or put into execution and the property is still in the possession of the

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal.]

tenant, I submit the benefits of this law ought to be made available to these tenants also.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: The lawyer has had his fee already.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: That does not matter. Only to avoid giving another fee to the lawyer, it is no use crushing and killing the tenant. In the second place, so far as the question of the sub-tenancy is concerned, I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member particularly to the legal implications of the provisions which are there. Sub-tenancy has been recognised through the words sub-letting. If you refer to clause 4 you will find that there is something like sub-letting and rents have been proposed to be apportioned in those cases. But I do not understand what is the status of a sub-tenant and how he has been defined? A sub-tenant has not been defined at all, far less has he been defined to be a tenant. The result will be—and I particularly draw your attention to this matter—that if you take the two persons, the landlord and the tenant, together you will find that the tenant who lets to a sub-tenant is not hit by this Act at all. Under clause 2(d) a tenant is defined as follows

“tenant” means a person who takes on rent any premises for his own occupation or for the occupation of any person dependent on him, but does not include collector of rents or any middleman who takes or has taken any premises on lease with a view to sub-letting them to another person.”

That is to say, an intermediate party is the landlord of the sub-tenant and the tenant to the superior landlord. But this does not come within the definition of ‘tenant’. Therefore eviction proceedings will not apply to a tenant of that description within the meaning of clause 9. But he is the most guilty party. It is also the intention of this law not to give him any protection, but then this party gets out, he cannot be ejected. Since clause 9 deals only with ejectment of tenant and since sub-tenant has not been defined as tenant, I do not know how and why a sub-tenant can be ejected within the meaning of this clause. The result will be that the sub-tenant as a tenant will not get protection of this law. Therefore he will be thrown to rely on the ordinary Transfer of Property Act and by one notice, the tenancy will be determined, a suit will be filed and the landlord will not be required to prove to the satisfaction of any body that he requires the premises for his own accommodation and that he has no other suitable accommodation, etc. It is dangerous. Similarly if you come now to the definition of the landlord, you would find that a tenant who has sub-let to a tenant cannot be a landlord within the meaning of this, because the expression is ‘receive the rent of any premises’. That is very significant. A tenant who is a landlord to another tenant, cannot let it to the sub-tenant. Only he has the right of use and occupation. He cannot get any rent for the premises as such because the premises are not his property. Therefore an intermediate party who is a landlord unto a sub-tenant and not a tenant unto the original landlord, he is neither a landlord nor a tenant within the meaning of this law. Therefore it will also be open to him to go to ordinary courts for determination of the tenancy within the meaning of the Transfer of Property Act. Therefore this landlord who is an intermediate party secures immunity in both directions. He is immune both from the liabilities of this Act as a tenant and as a landlord. Whereas the sub-tenant who is the real tenant for all practical purposes because he is holding occupation, he will be the victim of the ordinary proceedings and nobody can save him. Therefore to remedy this situation,—I do not know whether I have been hair-splitting or speaking hypercritically in my analysis of the wording of this section—I am simply pointing out the pitfalls and the catches which are there and I can also give a way out. It is easy to cut the Gordian Knot. The purpose of this legislation ought to be to do away with any intermediate party. My Honourable friend says he is prepared to recognise the previous sub-tenancy but not future sub-tenancies. I would rather ask him to accept sub-tenancies only for one purpose, whether past, present or future. Provision should be made in this Bill by which the actual occupier of the house should be used as direct

tenant of the landlord who is the owner of the premises. Whether he receives from one middleman or another middleman by the operation of this law, he will become a direct tenant under the law. There may be cases in which part of it has been sub-let, there may be a provision made that in respect of a portion sub-let, he will become the direct tenant of the landlord and the intermediate party will remain a direct tenant in respect of the other portion. Therefore there will be two tenancies. This will eliminate a large number of complications that will arise in courts, large number of applications that will also arise in the matter of conveniences. I suggest that the Honourable Member will take stock of the points which I am placing before him. It is not merely a technical question of law, it is also a question of substantial justice. In this connection, I would invite the attention of the House to the necessity of going into the question of rationing accommodation. My Honourable friends Mr. Joshi and Mr. Manu Subedar went into the larger housing questions. That is a matter for the future. In the immediate present, something could be done to meet the situation, that is where rationing of accommodation can be done successfully, not through the intervention of courts, but it can be done through the help and assistance of Conciliation Boards, consisting of local people presided over by a Judge if necessary. However tight the congestion may be, we feel that within the ambit of the existing accommodation, things could be so recast as to bring the maximum convenience to the largest number. If a landlord comes and says, well he has no suitable accommodation he wants more accommodation for his son who has been married, if he wants an extra room, it may be that the tenants house is very near and perhaps by some adjustment, one room in the tenant's house may be allowed to be occupied by the landlord. It may be used for some purpose which will be to the advantage of the landlord. In order to do this, there must be some basic principles of rationing. There is no time for me to go into this question elaborately. After all we can lay down a standard of space for each individual—so many square feet for each individual. Then for families of certain individuals, so many square feet and so on. In that way we can really approach the problem and bring in at least a part of the solution which we all desire. For example looking at ourselves, I feel—I do not know whether this feeling is shared by others—we members of the Assembly are occupying bungalows here. I have got a pretty big family, but still I feel that though I use the entire accommodation, I could still spare one room for some officer, who may be single or who might have left his family at home. To that extent no doubt there will be a reduction in the convenience. There would be accommodation for one big man and to that extent the house problem would receive some solution. I see Members of Government all occupying big bungalows, all for themselves. Two or three families can easily occupy each bungalow. As my friend suggests I have no objection if ten families can be accommodated in one Member's bungalow. I say let us look at the problem with a concrete ideology. My good Deputy President, Mr. Yamin Khan for whom I have great respect propounded the curious theory that a man who owns a house must enjoy the property unmolested. All that old theory is gone. Perhaps with the passing of age, ideas also have changed, new ideas have taken root in the land, but I see my Honourable friend Mr. Yamin Khan does not seem to have changed with the passing of time. I am surprised that he should stand up and plead that the landlords should utilise their property all to themselves. I may remind my Honourable friend that the maximum social benefit is the measure of utility of property. Merely because his house is there, therefore he must eject his tenant. That is not a right principle. If he has a house, let him own it, but he must not eject the tenant. He might take a little more rent. But this eviction proposal ought to be stopped. Otherwise we shall be held guilty of doing injustice to the social structure of society. I do not like the House should be a party to it.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Shabha (Member, Works, Mines and Power Department): Sir, as I have some other urgent engagement, I would leave it to the

[Mr. C. H. Bhabha.]

Secretary of my Department to deal with the points which have been mentioned in detail. First of all, I wish sincerely to apologise to the House for not being able to be present at the earlier stages of the discussion of this important measure pertaining to my Department. I crave the indulgence of my Honourable friends for this lapse on my part. As Honourable Members are aware this Bill has perhaps been the most controversial measure, barring of course measures of high finance, of all the Bills that have come before the House.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: The financial implications are there in this Bill also.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: But they are of minor nature as compared with the implications in other financial measures that have come before the legislature during this session. No other similar legislation has aroused such passionate emotion in both patrician and plebian breasts or has led to such vigorous canvassing from far and wide and from rival partisans as this measure has. To give the House some idea of the canvassing that has gone on in regard to this measure I will just quote a simple case. Over this measure which pertains to the centrally administered areas of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara canvassing has gone on from all quarters of the country ranging from the Himalayas in the north right down to Cape Comorin in the south. Only a few days after the Select Committee report on this Bill was out I received a communication from an unknown party in Coorg asking me to treat liberally one of his dentist friends in this city who had sub-let his house and was supplementing his income in that way, although he had put up his charges for dental extraction. That is the extent to which canvassing has gone. Anyway this is not unnatural nor was it unexpected so far as our department was concerned; for housing all over the world is a subject of acrimonious debate and in Delhi both landlords and tenants have had good reasons to be critical of the housing situation that developed as a result of the war and its aftermath. Nevertheless I venture to think that practical wisdom lies in so evolving a policy as would reduce to a bare minimum the rigours of the situation that has arisen. It is in this spirit of compromise that Government right at the start evolved this measure and placed it before the legislature in substitution of the New Delhi Rent Control Order of 1939 as subsequently amended in 1944, as well as in substitution of Ordinance No. 25 of 1944 which pertains to Old Delhi and the city, as well as of the Ordinance which was promulgated by the Chief Commissioner for the province of Ajmer-Merwara. Sir, I think it is with this objective, to evolve a measure that would suit the occasion, that Government came out with this piece of legislation. Government also consider that such a piece of legislation could in no circumstances be considered to be a model or satisfactory law for all parties concerned for all times. It was with such an open mind, therefore, that Government offered to refer this to the Select Committee which has so ably gone through the various clauses and implications of this measure which is now before this House. I wish to pay my tribute to the members of the Select Committee for their fair evaluation of the various aspects of this measure; and I make bold to say that the Bill as it has come before the House in its present form is a measure which is essentially a short term one and has got certain definite objectives underlying it.

The main features of this Bill have been very ably referred to by some of the previous speakers and I do not want to take the time of the House by a reiteration of the same subject. I shall only in very brief terms refer to the essential provisions of this measure, and these may be summarised under four main heads: (i) those relating to rent and increase of rent; (ii) those relating to eviction to which one or two of my Honourable friends referred so strongly; (iii) those relating to powers given to Government to take compulsory lease of property, and (iv) certain other miscellaneous provisions of an ancillary nature.

The first provision about increase of rents was given much thought to by Government before they evolved this measure. As Honourable Members are aware,

rents had been stabilised at the 1939 level so long with a few relaxations here and there, in that, under the Old Delhi order an increase of 12½ per cent. was permitted after 1944. After the termination of the war Government felt that there were no sufficiently justifiable reasons for pegging the yields of a particular type of investment as against others; the economic factors do not justify that. And the other consideration that Government followed was that of giving an impetus or incentive to private construction activities which Government felt they were in duty bound to support. On this point my Honourable friends Mr Subedar and Mr. Sanyal have laid great stress. Right away, I may say, Government are fully aware of the difficult situation that is confronting the population of these centrally administered areas. I refer to that because the present Bill refers to these areas alone; and Government have done all in their power to encourage private building activities. My other friend Mr Joshi referred to construction being undertaken by the State itself. I may remind the House that Government have not been negligent on this score either. The recent activities of the Labour Department, so far as construction in the mining areas goes, bear ample testimony to the aliveness of Government to this aspect of the question also. Government have undertaken large-scale construction for their railway employees also. The present difficulties, specially in places like New Delhi, have arisen because of a large expansion of Government's activities during the past few years entailing a large increase of staff. It may be a matter of information to a few of my Honourable friends if I today apprise them of the fact that the number of officers of the Government has increased by about 300 per cent.

Shri Sri Prakasa: It is very bad.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: War time exigencies justify this and we are doing all in our power to adjust it to the present conditions.

Shri Sri Prakasa: The war itself was unjustified.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: It may have been unjustified.

May I point out for the benefit of some of my Honourable friends that the clerical establishments have increased by about six times and the number of menial servants of the Government by 6½ times. This is the plight we are in at the moment, and I would appeal to my Honourable friends to bear in mind these peculiar circumstances when they level any criticism about lack of enthusiasm for housing.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division, Muhammadan Rural): By how much has the housing accommodation increased?

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: In Delhi by about 10 per cent., and that is nothing. Government owns about 2,000 bungalows, which is not even sufficient to meet the needs of the present staff to the extent of 5 per cent.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: All the more reason for Government to build more.

The Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha: Government are doing their best as I have already said.

Coming back to the question of increase of rents, I have laid before the House two of the major considerations that were brought to bear on the Government for this increase that we recommended in the preliminary Bill that was before the House. It is possible, Sir, to argue *ad nauseam* about the equity of the in- that have been proposed by the Select Committee, and I am sure the House will appreciate that the views of many landlords certainly differ from the views of many tenants. I only appeal to them to consider the measure of increase that has been brought before the House after giving great thought to it in the Select Committee stage and approve of the same.

The other point of a controversial nature to which I would like to refer at this stage is the point about eviction which is contained in clause 9 of the Bill. I am sure all of us are aware that good landlords do not intend or desire to harass good tenants, and good tenants on their part have no desire to harass their landlords.

[Mr. C. H. Bhabha.]

or to profiteer at the expense of the landlords. Sir, it is no reflection on landlords or tenants as a class for me to say that such specimens of humanity are rare. Therefore it was considered necessary to make some specific provisions about eviction of tenants and I think the measure as it has now come before the House, especially regarding this clause, was fully considered by the Select Committee and is a fair measure of compromise which I strongly commend to the House.

Before I deal with one or two points referred to by the previous speakers, I should point out that the basic difficulty in a measure of this nature is the age old social problem, as my Honourable friend Mr. Sanyal has said, of adjusting right against right. It is an undue simplification of this problem, to suggest, as some participants alone can do, to say that the landlords are in the wrong and that the tenants are in the right or vice versa. The practical problem is, as I have said of adjusting vested interests, and in a measure of this nature there is bound to be a certain amount of compromise or conciliation on both the sides to come to a sort of an agreed Bill of the nature that the House has before it. I consider that the Bill is a fair compromise and I strongly commend it to the House.

Now I shall take up one or two points which have been made out by one or two of my Honourable friends who have spoken just before me. One of these points was made by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar. Government, as I have said, have done all in their power to assist private housing and Government have every desire to see that new constructions crop up even like mushrooms if necessary. But at the same time there are difficulties I admit. To give impetus to new builders we have provided for certain points in the measure that is before the House, and I need not repeat the same points again. Government have also been sufficiently alive to construction by governmental agencies, and I can assure the House that Government will pursue its activities in these directions.

The valuable suggestion made by the same speaker about Housing Board will be carefully considered by the Government.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

Now, Sir, there is just one point to which I would like to refer before I finish, and that is the point made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta, about increased rent for requisitioned houses, as I understood him—he was addressing in Urdu and I am not very familiar with that language. This point is not covered by this Bill but this has been sufficiently dealt with in Requisitioning Bill which was before the House a few days ago. However the suggestion made by the Honourable Member will be carefully considered when fixing up a fair compensation for such requisitioned property.

I think I have said enough on this. I can only repeat one thing that the Government have an open mind on this issue and they would be prepared to accept any fair suggestion that may be made by the Honourable Members, and they will do all in their power to see that this law does not act inequitably to any of the parties, but if it does they will amend the law no sooner they find that any of its provision has worked inequitably or unjustly.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I crave the indulgence of the House when I rise to speak a few words on this Bill. I promise, Sir, not to be guilty of repetition of the arguments put forward by the previous speakers. I promise also to be guilty of brevity. This Bill has succeeded in raising a controversy, a storm of controversy, from all sides—from the sides of the landlords as also from the side of the different shades and grades of tenants. The Honourable Secretary yesterday and to-day tried to demonstrate to the House that he attempted to strike a golden mean. But he seemed to forget and let me remind him that truth does not lie in between but, in the words of Goethe, lies somewhere beyond.

We have been taught so long that the sting is at the tail, but I find in this Bill that the sting is at the very top. Let me read out that portion:

"The Bill does not apply to any premises the construction of which is completed after 1-1-36."

I do not know what led the Government and the Members of the Committee to put in this new and additional clause. Is it by way of coining the private capitalists who have dinned into their ears that their interests are being jeopardized? It is beyond any comprehension how in these days when socialization is the cry and rightly the cry of the day, they should encourage the private capitalists for building purposes and thus encourage upon the ignoble task of mortgaging the future to them. I shall, Sir, put

4 P.M. here, in this connection, a suggestion for the sympathetic consideration of the Government. If they do not feel competent, at this stage, to launch a bold scheme of house building let them encourage the organisation of co-operative building societies by all possible means and Co-operative building societies, I am sure like all other co-operative societies in other spheres of economic activities will go a great way if carried on in right lines to the solution of this great problem of shortage of houses. There are broadly speaking, three interests which are affected by this Bill—the landlord, the middleman and the tenant of the lowest rung of the ladder. Of the landlords, some of them certainly not all are more unfortunate than wicked, are more sinned against than sinning. The tenants, occupying the lowest rung of the ladder, are the worst sufferers while the middleman, Sir, like middlemen everywhere, is the villain of the piece. And we have got to see that he receives the treatment which he undoubtedly deserves but perhaps does not desire. I wish also that this House when it will consider the Bill clause by clause will look to the interests of the lowest rung of the ladder, I mean the tenants, who are at the bottom and if that is done, the interests of the common man will be served and we shall have done our duty so far as this Bill is concerned.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I start with three propositions. The first is that we should admit that it is the responsibility of the Government to have food for all to have clothing for all and I now say to have houses for all. The provision of houses for the poor should be accepted as the responsibility of the Government.

The second thing is that tenants should not use house rents like a stock exchange. They occupy one house, give it to another and live in a second house: and they do the same kind of gambling that people do at the stock exchange. This renting should not be made into a stock exchange. Although we are in favour of providing houses for all, we cannot in any way favour that they should use these houses as stock exchanges for their benefit.

Thirdly we ought to encourage private enterprise to build more houses because the Government cannot undertake the entire responsibility. Private individuals will not build more houses for rent unless there is an assured income for them. In the case of other industries, we consider 10 per cent to be very economic. But in the case of the houses, I thought my friend, the Honourable the Secretary will probably not be willing to give even 8 per cent. I think this is a point we should also settle. What should be the most economic rent if we want people to invest their money?

I repeat the three principles on which we base the whole edifice (1) houses for all is the responsibility for Government. (2) This should not be used as a stock exchange for profit: (3) and we ought to encourage private enterprise to help the Government in building more houses.

Coming to the first part—houses for all. Government cannot undertake to provide houses for middle and upper classes, princes and rich people. Probably they will not be able to satisfy them with the houses provided by the P.W.D.

[Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad]

of the Government of India. They would like to live in a house where a budget was never prepared, where estimates were not put before any committee and in which money was no consideration. We do not care for them. We are concerned with the housing of labour. I think they should accept that the employers of labour should have the responsibility of providing houses for their own workmen. If you have any factory then the condition of that recognition of the factory should be that they should provide housing for all those persons whom they employ.

Mr. Deputy President: The House has got before it the Select Committee's report on the Bill.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: This point has been raised by some speakers. Similarly it should be the responsibility of the Government to provide houses for all their labourers. We were told that the menials have increased 650 per cent but the accommodation for them has increased only by 10 per cent. I think the Government failed in their responsibility for not providing houses for them. If one has increased $6\frac{1}{2}$ times, they ought to provide accommodation in the same proportion. Really the provision of houses for labourers should be the responsibility of the employers and it should be made a part of the contract of the emoluments of the labourer. Therefore, the question of the accommodation of the labourer should not arise as it would be the responsibility of the employers. But it is the middle class people who are really important and who should not be the responsibility of either the Government or anybody. This is the class we should consider and many provisions in this Bill are very wholesome and a great improvement to the existing conditions and I am sure that a number of them will help to remove the difficulties which we all have in our minds. As I said, these tenants should not use their houses as a stock exchange. This ought to be regulated and if a person is living in a rented house, and in the meantime he has built a house of his own, then certainly he ought to shift to his own house and not live in the rented house because the other is more profitable. We know, and I have before me a case of a person who has taken a house from the Government and has given it on rent. He has a house of his own and he has given it on rent and he is living in a rented house which is cheaper. That is gambling as in stock-exchange. A thing of this kind ought to be safeguarded against.

Another point I want to mention is this. I had the advantage of a number of pamphlets that I received on this Bill, perhaps more on this Bill than on any other Bill. I notice that a good many points raised in those pamphlets have been covered by the Select Committee. I wish the members of the Select Committee had raised any points they had in the committee itself and got their opinion incorporated in the report itself or written a note of dissent if they were defeated in the committee. But after every thing is finished they have tabled a large number of amendments. After considering all these points in the Select Committee and accepting the report of the committee and then to come before the House with a large number of amendments is, I think, not justified. It is not fair to their colleagues here.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: They will withdraw such amendments.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I did not know whom I was referring to until the Honourable Member interrupted me. I was only talking in a general way without any reference to anybody. I thank the Honourable Members of the Select Committee in having taken very great care to produce this Bill. Though it does not cover all the requirements which my friends who sent the memorandum and the pamphlets wanted to have, it does cover a number of those points.

Another point is that there are a number of people who are prepared to invest money in building activities. It has been repeatedly said here that

Government ought to provide facilities for building to those persons who want to invest money here. They ought to take care to provide the land for these persons, because it is impossible for a man coming from outside to buy the land in a competitive atmosphere. The provision of land and the necessary building materials must be the responsibility of the Government. When housing accommodation is so acute, it is the responsibility of the Government to provide the facilities for more constructions by private owners, because the Government cannot take the responsibility of providing houses for the middle class people.

There is one further point which I hope the members of Government have clearly realised. At present there is a great tendency all over India to shift from rural to urban areas. This is so not only in Delhi but everywhere else, because the people in the rural areas are now feeling that their life is unsafe there. They think that their life in the urban areas would be safer and so they shift from rural to urban areas. This has increased the shortage of accommodation in the urban areas. I remember 15 years ago the tendency was to shift from urban to rural areas and the question of accommodation was not so acute then. But now on account of the abnormal conditions which have been created by our own administration, this situation has arisen. The Government themselves are responsible for creating this situation, in which life in rural areas has become very unsafe except for those persons who are actually the tillers of the soil. So it is the responsibility of the Government to provide the building materials and the land to the people who want to build houses.

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, the discussion has ranged over a very wide field and the Honourable Mr. Bhabha has already replied to all the important points which have been raised. So there is very little really which I need say at this stage.

Sir, when asking the House to refer this Bill to Select Committee, I myself made it abundantly clear that the real solution of the acute shortage of housing in Delhi and in other places was housing, more housing and still more housing. That is the only proper solution. Every thing else is in the nature of a palliative. Rent control is not the remedy for the acute housing shortage which exists in Delhi or anywhere else. And I promised that what was said on the floor of this House would be duly communicated to the Department of Health, which is in charge of private housing, the Department of Industries and Supplies, which is in charge of building materials, cement, iron, coal, and so on, and the Department of Labour which has to deal with labour.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member may remember that the point which was raised was this: that people who want to build should not go about to different departments but there should be only one department which would issue the permits for every thing necessary for building, that is that cement, iron, timber, bricks, etc., must be dealt with by one department.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I was coming to that, Sir. Today the point was further developed and there is general demand that there should be a Ministry of Housing and that is what you were kind enough to refer to. This is a matter which I shall certainly bring to the notice of the Government, if indeed any further action is necessary, when the Honourable Member himself was present when that demand was being voiced and he replied to it in the course of his speech in this House.

[Mr. B. K. Gokhale.]

In the second place, there was a certain amount of criticism about the activities of the Improvement Trust. It has been said that the Trust in the course of the last few years has done really nothing to help or encourage private housing, that the Improvement Trust is profiteering by selling land at highly inflated rates and that in other ways it is to be blamed for having produced the acute housing situation as it exists today. There again, all that I can promise at present is to bring the remarks which my Honourable friend made earlier this afternoon to the notice of the Department of Health, which deals with improvement trusts. I myself had something to do with the activities of this Trust though only informally and I do know that the authorities in charge of the Improvement Trust are fully alive to this problem and are as anxious as anybody else to help reduce this acute housing position. I believe that they have made available about three to four thousand plots for private building during the last few years. But the only thing that is holding up new buildings is this difficulty of steel, cement, coal, bricks, etc. So we come back again to the same problem of the Ministry of Housing. All that I can do is to bring the remarks of my Honourable friend about the Improvement Trust to the notice of the Department which is in charge.

A suggestion was made about co-operative housing. That, indeed, is a very good suggestion. Earlier in my service I was myself Registrar of Co-operative Societies for a very short time and I was very interested in co-operative housing. But unfortunately theory and practice don't go hand in hand so far as co-operative societies are concerned. In theory it is an excellent idea to have co-operative housing. When it comes to actual practice, it is very difficult to get a co-operative housing society started and make it run as it should. Here again I will bring the remarks which have been made and the suggestions which have been offered to the notice of the appropriate Department of Government. Beyond that I cannot promise anything at this stage.

I have already referred, Sir, to the shortage of cement, steel and coal. There was a Resources Budget which was published sometime ago by the Government of India. I do not know whether it is a published document or whether it is still confidential. Anyway, from what I have seen of this Resources Budget which examined the whole position for the whole of India it seems as if the acute shortage of building material—steel, cement, coal, etc.—is likely to continue for another few years. Whatever we might do, even if a separate Ministry of Housing is started, I do not quite see how they can get over the shortage of building material as evidenced by the Resources Budget.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: It may not have office accommodation for itself.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: It is quite possible.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member please inform the House whether the shortage is due to the want of the materials or for want of transport? My information is that it is due to the want of transport.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: There is an overall shortage of material and there are some difficulties of transport, with due respect to the Honourable the Transport Member who will no doubt correct me, if I am wrong. But the chief difficulty is shortage of material and not so much of transport.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: My information is that I can get cement, wood and iron, if the transport is there.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, the difficulty is both of shortage of material and transport.

Reference was made to the question of shortage of electricity. That again is a difficulty caused by war-time. We are very short of electricity in Delhi, but steps have already been taken by Government to instal new plant; and

I hope within a very short time the present acute shortage of electricity will be over. Within three years, that is by 1949, we expect two ten thousand kilowatt plants.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the Honourable Member is prepared to enquire into the question of the maximum generating capacity of the present plant and making more power available to the public?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I may inform my honourable friend that the enquiry has already been made and more power has been made available to the public. I think he will soon see the results when it comes to the Control Board or whatever body it is which is dealing with it. But that is only a palliative. The real solution depends on the installation of another 20 thousand kilowatt plant in Delhi, and that, I believe, will not be ready till about 1949 or 1950. Probably by March 1950 we shall be in a position to deal with any expansion, any demands made on electricity in Delhi.

Sir, the Honourable Mr. Bhabha has already dealt with the question of labour housing to which my honourable friend Mr. Joshi referred and I will not touch that point any further. I believe plans have been made on a very elaborate scale and are going ahead.

There was some criticism about the exclusion of new houses from the scope of this Bill. There is no doubt that on almost every point in connection with this controversial measure, there is room for difference of opinion. I cannot say that the criticism is unfair. Everybody is entitled to his own point of view. But it is only a question of balancing of advantages and disadvantages. It is quite possible that we could have gone further and said that even new houses should be controlled and the rents fixed. Then the question would arise: what rate of interest should be allowed on capital, 3 per cent, 6 per cent, or 7½ per cent.? This is after all only a very short term measure, a temporary expedient, to tide over a temporary difficulty; and therefore we did not wish to bring in questions of high finance and high policy in this matter. It is much better to restrict the Bill to the immediate difficulties, and those difficulties can be amply met by rent control. That is why we decided that it is better to give the greatest possible incentive to people to build new houses. I might also add, Sir, that it is a mistake to imagine that it is only capitalists who want to sink money and build new houses. There are quite a large number of people with a small amount of capital who just want to put up a small house for their own residence. Buildings are not constructed in this country, as far as I know, by capitalists who want to make money on rent. Buildings are constructed mostly by people for their own residence. May be that in Bombay and Calcutta and a few other places there may be capitalists building houses with a view to realise rent. But ordinarily we have to think of all sorts of people who want to put up buildings. That is why we decided: let anybody who constructs a new building have the greatest encouragement, let there be no control or interference with his discretion whether he is going to live in it or let it out or evict tenants or what rent he will charge.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: No control on house rents?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: No control on house rents in respect of new buildings which will be constructed from now onwards.

Sir, my honourable friend Mr. Sanyal raised very big questions. What he wants is that there should be no eviction except for non-payment of rent. Then he went on to develop his point and said that it was not a question of justice but of maximum accommodation. He ended up by advocating rationing of accommodation and Conciliation Boards. Well, Sir, that if I might so put it, is a counsel of perfection. It is quite possible that if Government had plenty of time and energy and there was no question of paucity of staff and

[Mr. B. K. Gokhale.]

personnel and if the House also is willing to entrust government servants with more and more powers, it is possible that we can make a survey and settlement of the whole areas, when will be a *sine qua non*, make a survey in Old and New Delhi and all big cities and then start rationing arrangements with Conciliation Boards with a High Court Judge as President. I think everybody now a days wants a High Court Judge and I don't know where all the High Court Judges are to come from. Anyway, that, I believe, is a counsel of perfection and I would earnestly request my honourable friend not to press these ideas at this stage. What we have to do is to rush through this Bill in the next three days before existing Rent Control lapses in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. The Bill represents a compromise which has been evolved in the Select Committee, where twelve or fourteen people, the best brains, sitting together, and trying to meet one another's point of view, have evolved this compromise. I have no doubt that it will be improved to a certain extent in this House. But let us not aim at absolute perfection and justice. Those things are quite impossible in this world. Let us be content with what we have got. After four years, when this Act lapses, my honourable friend Mr. Sanyal may be able to persuade Government to ration accommodation. But I do not wish to look ahead into that distant future. For the present, I think this Bill will meet adequately with the demands of the situation.

Sir, a large number of other minor points have been made, but I do not propose to give a reply to them at this stage, as they will come up when the amendments which have been tabled come up for consideration. I do not wish to take up more time. Sir, with these words, I commend my motion to the House.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is—

"That the Bill to make better provision for the control of rents in certain areas in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: Does Mr. Sanyal wish to move his amendments to clause 2?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: My friend the Member in charge did not reply to a point I raised in the course of the general discussion as to whether or not the intermediate party who sub-lets will escape. Has he taken legal opinion on this matter? If his explanation is satisfactory, I may not move my amendments.

Mr. Deputy President: I might inform Honourable Members that there are a large number of amendments and I do not propose to call each member by name. When the time comes, I will put the clause to the House and I will expect Honourable Members who want to move their amendments to rise in their places. Otherwise it will be presumed that they do not intend to move their amendments.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: For the time being you will pass over clause 2 and proceed to clause 3, because much will depend upon the provisions that will be adopted by the House in the matter of the definition of landlord and tenant. For the purpose of economy, if the Honourable Member in charge does not disagree, we had better proceed to the other clauses and come to the definition afterwards.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I do not think it will be possible to delay clause 2 and then go on, because according to the Honourable Member himself, everything depends on the definition and we cannot very well consider other clauses, leaving the definitions vague. So, we have to proceed with clause 2. I notice that the Honourable Member has given notice of two amendments to clause 2 and if he is not going to move them, I presume that he does not wish to press these amendments.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I simply wanted an assurance from him that the purpose of my amendment is amply safeguarded by the provision of the definitions proposed in the Bill.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I was coming to that. The point which my Honourable friend raised was considered in Select Committee and it was agreed that the definition as it now stands amply covers all cases. The definition as it first stood in the original Bill was too wide and was cut down after prolonged discussion. As regards the point which he raised about the middleman, if he sub-lets, he will be treated as a landlord and the sub-tenant becomes a tenant, under the definition of tenant. So there will be no *lacuna*. That is what we have been advised by the best legal opinion; and I am content to accept that advice.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan (*Dacca cum Mymensingh, Muhammadan Rural*).
Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the words 'for use as a residence' be omitted."

This raises a very important point. In the Bill as reported on by the Select Committee, a distinction has been made between houses let out to tenants for residential purposes and houses let out for commercial and other purposes and so far as tenants who take lease for residential purposes are concerned, they have been allowed to sub-let a part of their premises taken lease of but in the case of those who take for commercial and other purposes no such sub-letting is permissible. That is the difference that is made. I do not think this is an equitable provision. I do not know why this distinction has been made. Probably the impression is that those who take for commercial purposes are all big men. Therefore it is an iniquity on their part if after taking lease of certain premises they let out even a portion of these premises to sub-tenants. That is why they are proposed to be penalised under the provisions of this Bill. This is a very wrong impression...

- **Mr. B. K. Gokhale:** It might perhaps cut short the discussion if I say that I am willing to accept my friend's amendment. The only suggestion I would make is that 'let' may be added—'let for use as a residence'.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved.

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the words 'for use as a residence' be omitted."

The amendment of Lala Deshbandhu Gupta seems to be more suitable. I would ask him to move his amendment.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the words 'as a residence' be omitted."

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved.

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the words 'as a residence' be omitted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I accept Mr Gupta's amendment.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: In that case, I withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy President: In that case, I shall put the second amendment of Mr. Gupta to the House.

The question is:

"That in sub clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the words 'as a residence' be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I move:

"That part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill be omitted, and the subsequent parts be re numbered accordingly."

I have got three amendments to this clause and they are all inter dependent. Under these circumstances, in order to save time, I would request you to allow me to move all the three at the same time, so that I can speak on all the three. For voting purposes, if you so desire, the amendments may be put to vote separately.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved

"That part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill be omitted, and the subsequent parts be re-numbered accordingly."

Miss Maniben Kara: I will now move my second amendment

"That for part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill the following be substituted, namely:

'the tenant may recover from the sub-tenant an amount equal to the standard rent of the premises in proportion to the area he occupies';"

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved.

"That for part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

'the tenant may recover from the sub-tenant an amount equal to the standard rent of the premises in proportion to the area he occupies';"

I will now ask **Mr. Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava** to move his amendments.

Mr. Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer-Merwara General) Sir, I move

"That for part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

'(a) the landlord may increase the rent payable by the tenant—

(i) in the case of premises let for residential purposes by an amount not exceeding 12½ per cent of the standard rent of the part sublet, and

(ii) in the case of premises let for other purposes by an amount not exceeding 26 per cent. of the standard rent of the part sublet'."

My next amendment, which also relates to sub-clause (1), runs thus and I move it

"That for part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

'(b) the tenant may increase the rent payable by the sub-tenant—

(i) in the case of premises let for residential purposes by an amount not exceeding 25 per cent of the standard rent of the part sublet; and

(ii) in the case of premises let for other purposes by an amount not exceeding 50 per cent of the standard rent of the part sublet'."

Mr. Deputy President: Amendments moved.

1. "That for part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

'(a) the landlord may increase the rent payable by the tenant—

(i) in the case of premises let for residential purposes by an amount not exceeding 12½ per cent of the standard rent of the part sublet; and

(ii) in the case of premises let for other purposes by an amount not exceeding 25 per cent of the standard rent of the part sublet'."

2. "That for part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

'(b) the tenant may increase the rent payable by the sub-tenant—

(i) in the case of premises let for residential purposes by an amount not exceeding 25 per cent. of the standard rent of the part sublet; and

(ii) in the case of premises let for other purposes by an amount not exceeding 50 per cent. of the standard rent of the part sublet'."

Four amendments are now before the House

Does the Honourable Secretary accept any of these amendments? If the House knows that, it will facilitate the discussion

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, the whole question is about subletting, and whether we are going to offer any incentive to the landlord and to the tenant for subletting or whether we merely insist on the sub-tenant paying exactly a portion of the standard rent. One set of amendments says that the sub-tenant shall pay exactly the proportion of the standard rent, which gives no incentive to the other parties. The other set of amendments gives an incentive. So, I am prepared to accept Mr. Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava's amendments, but I am not in a position to accept Miss Maniben Kara's amendments.

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, I am sorry that the Honourable Member has not conceded to accept the amendments which I have moved. As a matter of fact, when the original Bill was referred to the Select Committee, it was certainly expected that the Bill will undergo a change for the better to the extent of controlling the rent and giving relief to the tenants. I accept that as a result of the work of the Select Committee there have been a number of changes. But I must point out that as far as this clause is concerned, in the original Bill there was no such proposal that a tenant may be allowed to profiteer as a result of his subletting a part of his house to somebody else. It is rather unfortunate that in a Bill of this type the object of which is to control the rent, and after having agreed that a certain percentage of increase will be allowed on the basis of 1939, a backdoor measure to increase the rent should be brought before the House. In this particular clause a tenant who is willing to share his big house with other needy persons, is allowed to charge 12½ per cent more for his own self, or, in other words, 25 per cent more from the sub-tenant, and the profit is allowed to be divided between the landlord and the tenant, who, in this case, happens to be the landlord. Sir, I do not think it would be proper to argue that by putting a certain percentage of extra rent, we will be in a position to control black-marketing or *pugree* or any of those irregularities which are existing today as a result of sub-tenancy. Because I know that even by fixing this 25 per cent more for sub-tenancy, if he does not want to sub-let his house without taking his *pugree* he certainly is not going to do so. With regard to checking of *salami* or *pugree* money, certainly it is not going to be checked as a result of your allowing the tenant to charge 25 per cent more rent. I can understand, I can even appreciate and I would even accept the position if I was convinced that by charging a sub-tenant 25 per cent more we will be able to drive out corruption or *salami* or *pugree* as far as sub-tenancy is concerned. But unfortunately that will not be the case. A tenant will not go out of his way simply to share his premises with the other tenant simply because you have put down a clause entitling him to charge 25 per cent more. I would expect that while at least legislating a Bill of this nature, let us not allow any profiteering after fixing a certain percentage of increment in the rent. It amounts to profiteering by the tenant and also by backdoor methods allowing the landlord to have more rent.

Mr. Deputy President: I propose sitting till the House is able to finish clause 4. I am informing this House about this decision of mine so that the speeches may be regulated.

Miss Maniben Kara: Though I have been a party to the Select Committee and though I have put in a Minute of Dissent, this is the first time I am speaking on the Bill.

Mr. Deputy President: I do not object to the Honourable Member proceeding with her speech. I am only informing her what I propose to do.

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, by granting 25 per cent more on standard rent, if I was convinced that that would put an end to all *salami* or *pugree*, as I said before, I would be willing to accept the clause as it stands. Even now if

[Miss Maniben Kara.]

the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill is prepared to convince me to that effect, I would be prepared to accept his suggestion. I know that it cannot be done. The man who is already occupying will continue there and we do not know whether he will be honest enough not to manage in *payree*. Under these conditions when we are not in a position to drive out the evil of *salam*, I do not see any reason why by such legislation we should encourage profiteering by a tenant and thus help the landlord by the backdoor. I would therefore appeal to the Honourable Member and also to the Members of this House to accept this amendment so that we do not legislate for more increase in rent and we do not encourage profiteering by tenants at the expense of sub-tenants.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Sir, the object of moving this amendment is this. Clause 4(1), as it stands confines the applicability of sub-letting to residential premises only. My amendment aims at extending its scope to such premises which are being sub-let for non-residential purposes. In keeping with the general scheme of the Bill, I have proposed that in cases of sub-letting in so far as residential premises are concerned, sub-clause (1) of clause 4 proposes that a tenant may charge 25 per cent, and half of it may be divided between the landlord and the tenant. So far as commercial premises or non-residential premises are concerned, my amendment proposes that the tenant may charge 50 per cent over and above the standard rent and that 50 per cent may be divided between the landlord and the tenant to the extent of half and half. Therefore, so far as my amendment is concerned it aims at extending the scope of sub-clause (1) (a) of clause 4, to non-residential premises. So far as the amendment of Miss Kara is concerned, it aims at deletion of this part because it has been argued that it aims at profiteering. My submission is that the argument is wholly misplaced because if you recognise by means of this Bill that it will be permissible for the tenant to sub-let the premises at a certain rate, then it does not amount to profiteering at all, it means defining of standard rent so far as sub-letting of premises is concerned. In fact analogous provisions did not exist in the previous ordinances—neither in the Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control nor in the Delhi Ordinance 25 of 1944. So far as Ajmer-Merwara is concerned, this problem of sub-letting does not exist. So far as the Bill is concerned, its one aim is to fix rent for the premises and facts as they stand cannot be ignored by any legislation when making a particular enactment. We find that a number of premises have been sub-let and the tenants are actually charging considerably higher amounts of rent than they are paying to the landlord. Secondly when we recognise sub-letting, it becomes our duty as legislators to define as to what will be the standard rent chargeable for sub-letting by a tenant and that the benefit of it should go not only to the tenant but also to the landlord because ordinarily it is not permissible for any tenant to sub-let the premises without the consent of the landlord. When we recognise sub-letting without the consent of the landlord, then it is our paramount duty to lay down the principle and there is nothing strange if we prescribe that the amount charged will be divided between the landlord and the tenant half and half, giving the advantage to both. I do not wish to take any more time of the House. I commend my amendments to the House.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, there is just one point. I think my Honourable friend Miss Maniben Kara is labouring under a misapprehension when she thinks we are out to help profiteering. There is no question of encouraging profiteering. The tenant may have already taken *salam* or *payree*. But where he is charging 100 per cent or 200 per cent extra over and above the standard rent of the part sub-let, we are now trying to reduce the rent of the sub-tenant and limit it to 25 per cent or 50 per cent as the case may be. This is wholly in the interest of the sub-tenant.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill be omitted, and the subsequent parts be re-numbered accordingly."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That for part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

'the tenant may recover from the sub-tenant an amount equal to the standard rent of the premises in proportion to the area he occupies';"

The motion was negatived.

Mr Deputy President: The question is:

"That for part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

'(a) the landlord may increase the rent payable by the tenant—

(i) in the case of premises let for residential purposes by an amount not exceeding 12½ per cent of the standard rent of the part sublet, and

(ii) in the case of premises let for other purposes by an amount not exceeding 25 per cent of the standard rent of the part sublet'."

The motion was adopted

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That for part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely:

'(b) the tenant may increase the rent payable by the sub-tenant—

(i) in the case of premises let for residential purposes by an amount not exceeding 25 per cent of the standard rent of the part sublet; and

(ii) in the case of premises let for other purposes by an amount not exceeding 50 per cent of the standard rent of the part sublet'."

The motion was adopted

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, I move.

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 4 of the Bill, the words 'whether before or' be omitted"

This sub-clause says

"Where the landlord has at any time whether before or after the commencement of this Act incurred expenditure on any improvement or structural alteration of the premises not being expenditure on decoration or normal repairs, and the cost of that improvement or structural alteration has not been taken into account in determining the standard rent of the premises, he may increase the rent per year by an amount not exceeding six and one-quarter per cent of such cost."

If rent was increased at the time the expenditure was incurred the landlord was entitled to do so because even under the Rent Control

Order there was nothing to prevent it. But by having the words 'whether before or' at every stage we are only helping them to dig out the past. It is possible that repairs were made four or six years back; should we allow the landlord to dig up the past now by passing this law? These words occur everywhere, for instance, in clause 9 where the question of eviction comes in these words are there I therefore submit that while for all other purposes we want to apply this Bill to the future, in this case we should not allow it to affect the past. In order to avoid any unpleasantness between the landlord and the tenant and to avoid digging up things which happened long ago, I submit that this harmless amendment should be accepted. It is not a big issue and it makes no substantial change in the Bill. I am sure the landlords would not be so charitable as not to charge the tenants for repairs or for the additional expenditure incurred. And therefore I appeal to the Honourable Member in charge to accept the amendment.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 4 of the Bill, the words 'whether before or' be omitted"

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I am sorry I cannot accept this amendment. There is no difference between myself and my Honourable friend on questions

[Mr. B. K. Gokhale.]

of principle. She is perfectly willing to accept that where a landlord effects an improvement, he should get extra rent. About the past, there cannot be many such cases. The landlords must have already got extra rent; and it is specifically provided that, in such cases, no further increase will be allowed. Now that leaves a very few cases which may have happened in the last three or four months where the landlord has effected improvements and has not yet added anything to the rent. Should we deny him the benefit of these improvements because he had no time or opportunity, to add to the rent? I do not think that would be at all fair. With regard to things that happened in the past and which my Honourable friend is afraid may be raked up, I do not think there will be any possibility of raking up the past. It will be very difficult for the landlord in such cases to prove that improvements effected say four years ago were not taken into account and that he had slept over it. So I feel that the clause as it stands is perfectly fair and I cannot accept the amendment.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is.

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 4 of the Bill, the words 'whether before or' be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is.

"That clause 4 as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 21st March, 1947.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 21st March 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

LICENCES FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND EXTENSION OF FACTORIES

1088. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state in which industries Government have instituted a system of licences for (i) extension of the factory, and (ii) establishing new factories?

(b) What is the policy in respect of the issue of such licences?

(c) Who determines such issues and what is the share of the Provincial Governments in such determination?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a), (b) and (c). No system of licencing factories has been instituted so far; but this question is under consideration. I might however state that for securing proper distribution of industrial development, a certain amount of control has been exercised in the case of Cotton Textile, Cement and Sugar industries. This control is confined to the allocation of quotas of production to Provinces and Indian States, the actual distribution of the quotas to individuals being made by or on the recommendation of the Provincial and State Governments.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not true that the Food Department exercises control over factories concerned with the production of food items, like vegetable ghee, and may I enquire whether Government will take the whole issue of licencing factories together into consideration and that they will formulate their policy from one department which will be applicable to all?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The suggestion will be taken into consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does this also include that the various companies may be advised or directed to allow the Provincial Governments to take a particular portion of the shares of these new factories?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The policy of trying to control through ownership of industries is a general question, and I would like the Honourable Member to deal with it separately.

PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN ENTERPRISE IN NEW COMPANIES.

1089. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if Government have any information with regard to the numerous companies for the manufacture of various articles, that are projected, or already registered, in which foreign enterprise is invited to participate or share on certain terms?

(b) What steps have Government taken to see that the terms, on which such participation takes place, are reasonable and are not opposed to the interests of India as a whole?

(c) Have Government considered any steps in order to check the purchase of machinery and equipment at highly inflated prices by Indian companies from abroad?

(d) Have Government any information of the volume of orders for machinery placed abroad and have they any means of knowing this?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take in order to have full information regarding such matters in future?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) of his Starred Question No. 1090 to be answered today.

(b) When sanctioning issue of capital, Government examine the terms as far as possible from this point of view.

(c) Facilities now exist for importers to obtain their requirements of machinery from the cheapest sources. A Press Note on the subject dated the 14th September 1946 issued by the Government of India, is placed on the table.

(d) Although Government do not have a perfect machinery for accurately gauging volume of orders for machinery and equipment placed abroad, in the administration of Import Controls Government can get a fair idea of the volume of these orders. A statement showing the approximate figures for 1945 and 1946 is placed on the table

(e) Government will consider the question.

PRESS NOTE

Imports of Capital Goods from non-sterling area countries.

Representation have recently been received by the Government of India that machinery manufacturers in the United Kingdom quote considerably higher prices and longer periods of delivery for capital goods as compared with the terms offered by manufacturers in hard currency countries. These representations have been considered by the Government of India and with a view to enable industrialists to obtain their requirements from the countries which offer relatively more favourable terms, it has been decided to allow importation of capital goods and machinery at prices for a comparable period of delivery as longer if it is proved that the U. K. prices are ably higher and/or the period of delivery is longer.

With a view to further assist industrialists, it has been decided that the responsibility for ascertaining non-availability of capital goods in the sterling area should henceforth be assumed by Government and steps are being taken to dispose of applications as expeditiously as possible.

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT,
New Delhi, September 14, 1946

Statement showing the approximate total value of machinery and equipment (including Heavy Electrical equipment and machine tools) for which import licences were issued during 1945 and 1946

(In lakhs of rupees).

Country of Import	1945	1946
U. K.	4988	5407
U. S. A.	610	2345
Canada	7	96
Sweden	15	198
Switzerland	30	204
Others	55	836
Total	5705	9086

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the notorious fact that many Indian firms through their inexperience or through their anxiety to have their factories established quickly are placing orders recklessly in other countries of the world at very heavy prices for textile machinery, printing machinery, sugar-making plants, etc., will Government consider the desirability of checking this private putting of orders at very heavy prices because it is detrimental to the interests of this country?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If the Honourable Member will read the Press Note that I have referred to, the last paragraph is this:

"With a view to further assist industrialists, it has been decided that the responsibility for ascertaining non availability of capital goods in the sterling area should henceforth be assumed by Government and steps are being taken to dispose of applications as expeditiously as possible."

Other information too is placed, Sir, at the disposal of the industrialists, and the general matter of trying to make the best bargain for industrialists will also be considered by the Government, but I think the industrialists are quite capable to take care of themselves.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps being taken to see that our industrialists will not place orders abroad for such of the articles as can be had in our own country even though the prices may be a little higher?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The suggestion is extremely simple, and I think the industrialists are quite aware of the advantages of securing articles locally instead of waiting for supplies from abroad.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know from the Honourable Member if Government propose to institute an *ad hoc* machinery for the purpose of collecting data as to the orders placed abroad?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The machinery that we have and to which I referred—the Import Control Machinery is adequate enough. If we exercise a greater amount of control it may cause delay, but the suggestion will be considered.

TERMS OF COMBINATION OF INDIANS AND NON-INDIANS IN THE MANUFACTURE OF MOTOR CARS, DYESTUFFS, ETC.

1090. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if Government have any information with regard to combination of Indians and non-Indians in the manufacture of (i) motor-cars, (ii) textile machinery, (iii) dyestuffs, and (iv) technical equipment?

(b) How many such companies have been projected?

(c) Have Government seen the terms and conditions between Indians and non-Indians and, if so, have they considered whether it is necessary in the interests of India as a whole to avoid some of these terms?

(d) Approximately when is production expected to start on these lines according to information possessed by Government?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a), (b) and (c) I presume that by "combination" is meant arrangements under which non-Indians are to participate in the share-holding and control of an Indian company. As far as Government are aware, an agreement was entered into recently between some Indian industrialists and some British industrialists to start the manufacture of spinning machinery in India. A new company (Messrs. Parimal Limited) has been formed for the purpose with a capital of Rs. 1½ crores, the issue of which has been sanctioned. The agreement provides that, while the majority of the shares and controlling interests will be held by Indians, the British industrialists will have a minor financial interest in the company and will be represented on the Board.

Government also understand that negotiations are in progress between Messrs. Tata Sons Limited and the Imperial Chemical Industries Limited for the formation of a company for the manufacture of dyestuffs in India, but Government have no further information.

Government are not aware of any such combinations for the manufacture of motor cars or "technical equipment".

Government do not consider it necessary, in the interests of India, to interfere in the terms and conditions of the agreement for the manufacture of spinning machinery.

(d) The Company formed for the manufacture of textile spinning machinery in India is expected, if all goes well, to begin manufacture in 1950. I cannot say anything about the other concern.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that in some cases the Indian counterpart of these combinations is merely the selling agent, and that the material is coming here in a knocked down and loose condition and is being merely put right and then sold as Indian manufactured goods?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: There is such a possibility, Sir though I would not vouch for all of them being of that character.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will not Government set up some machinery to secure the fullest information even if they did not consider it desirable normally to interfere with these combinations?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: Yes, Sir. We have done our best to collect our information and I could have given more information on the question put, apart from the question of combination, if I were satisfied with inaccurate and vague information. Government have a lot of vague information. But there is opportunity for getting more accurate information as things develop. The suggestion of the Honourable Member, if put in a little more concrete form as to the nature of the organisation we have to set up, will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I shall be very glad to send the Honourable Member a note on the subject.

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: Thanks, Sir.

SINDRI FERTILISER PLANT

1091. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the progress that has been made in the direction of the Sindri Plant for the manufacture of fertilisers?

(b) What progress has been made with regard to the setting up of cement manufacture from base products of the fertiliser?

(c) Is it a fact that the firm of British Consulting Engineers is also supervising work in India?

(d) Have Government received any complaints that, in the distribution of works orders in India, Indian firms have been discriminated against and have not been given full opportunity for taking up the work?

(e) What is the volume of orders, which have gone to British firms in India and of those, which have gone to Indian firms?

(f) What was the original date mentioned in the Assembly by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar when this plant would be functioning, and by how many years will that date be delayed?

(g) What are the principal causes for such delay?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer of the Starred Question No. 365.

(b) Specifications have been drafted for the machinery for the cement factory and issued to manufacturers specialising in this class of work in

England, in the U.S.A. and in India, for the purpose of submitting competitive tenders.

(c) No Sir. The Consulting Engineers are an American firm.

(d) Owing to the difficulty of obtaining competitive tenders in India for structural steelwork, Government set up a small committee to make recommendations to Government on the allocation of orders for such work and a complaint was received from an Engineering Association to the effect that, out of 10,000 tons of structural steelwork required, orders for 9,000 tons had been placed with European controlled firms. The Association complained that this committee was showing discrimination against Indian firms. The facts were that, excluding orders for steelwork for the Power-Gas speciality plant, for which they hold an all-in contract, only one order for 1,200 tons of structural steelwork and erection of the same had been placed on the recommendations of the Committee, and this had gone to an Indian controlled firm.

(e) At the end of February the value of orders for plant and steelwork and reinforced concrete foundations placed with British controlled firms in India was Rs 15.18 lakhs. The value of orders placed with Indian controlled firms was Rs 28.64 lakhs. Many enquiries are still outstanding on both British controlled and Indian controlled firms.

(f) and (g) The time required to bring a factory of this type into production is determined by the time required for delivery of the plant. Owing to the world shortage of capital goods, procurement of plant has been difficult. Notwithstanding this India has been fortunate in obtaining high priority in the various countries of supply for all key items of the plant. Deliveries, however, are in most cases from two to three years from date of placing orders. It is on the basis of best plant deliveries obtainable that it is forecast that the factory will start production early in 1949.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware in connection with the Sindri Plant that the Sindri people are taking up 8,000 tons of timber lying in Bombay instead of collecting the timber from the Sub-Himalayan Tracts to which it is nearer. They are creating a transport problem and depriving the building trade in Bombay of timber which is in the hands of the Disposals Directorate.

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: If the question is cheaper supply at the Sindri factory, I am certain that Government will make every endeavour to get it from the Himalayan Tracts. But if it is a question of competition between the building trade in Bombay city and the fertiliser factory, I would place preference on the fertilising factory.

UNSATISFACTORY TRAVELLING CONDITIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

1092. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of trains on the Bengal Nagpur Railway are still inadequate and that passengers travel on foot-boards in many trains;

(b) whether the pre-war standard of the number of trains is contemplated to be resumed on this Railway, if so, when;

(c) whether Government are aware that most of the carriages of this Railway are in need of repairs and that the passengers are inconvenienced owing to unsatisfactory travelling conditions; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to restore the pre-war travelling conditions?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, as soon as more coaching stock becomes available.

(c) Yes. Shortage of materials, fittings and lack of adequate maintenance under war conditions have contributed to the present unsatisfactory condition of much of the coaching stock. Every effort is, however, being made to overtake these arrears in maintenance.

(d) The Railway Administrations are doing their utmost to restore pre-war travel conditions; in fact, the Railway schemes aim at considerable improvement on the pre-war conditions of travel generally although it must necessarily be some time before these schemes can materialize.

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that particularly in this line the coaches are in a much worse condition than in any line in India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I admit that is possible. But we are doing our best. As the Honourable Member realizes the difficulties in our way are really two: first of all, there is an unusual amount of work thrown on the railway workshops, and then there is the shortage of materials. But consistently with these limiting conditions, we are doing our best.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: In view of present conditions, would not the additional running of trains cost further loss?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not necessarily Sir.

INSPECTION OF RAILWAYS BY INSPECTING OFFICERS OF THE RAILWAY BOARD

1093. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state—

(a) the manner of inspection of the Railways prescribed by the Railway Board;

(b) the number of inspections made annually of each Railway by the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Board,

(c) the method of inspection adopted,

(d) the number of the Inspecting Officers,

(e) whether these Inspecting Officers secure the assistance of the Local Advisory Committees at the time of inspection;

(f) whether the Inspecting Officers take the proceedings of the Local Advisory Committees as a part of their agenda of inspecting items;

(g) whether the Inspectors summon the parties concerned and hear their grievances when their representations are outstanding for decision before the Railway authorities; and

(h) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of prescribing a more rigid and searching mode of inspection by the Inspection Officers?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: (a) The Inspectors, who inspect railways in pursuance of the obligation laid down in Section 4(2) (a) & (b) of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 are no longer the officers of the Railway Board, but are under the Communications Department. There are two types of inspections, namely; (i) inspection of a line before it is opened for the public carriage of passengers; and (ii) periodical inspection of lines open already to passenger traffic.

Periodical inspections are sub-divided into two categories: (i) a detailed annual inspection which is usually carried out by a special train in company with the General Manager and his Principal and District Officers; and (ii) a tour inspection, which is carried out mostly by passenger trains usually unaccompanied by any railway official.

Inspection prior to the opening of a line for public traffic is carried out either by a special train or by a trolley.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) The Inspector is expected to pay attention mostly to the following points, and to comment on them in his Annual Inspection Report:

(i) the proper maintenance of the sub-grade works, bridges, tracks, accommodation works, signalling and interlocking equipment, locomotives and rolling stock;

(ii) whether the operation of the railway is being carried out in such a manner as to secure the safety both of the public and of persons operating the railway, and whether the staff are thoroughly familiar with their duties and the rules;

(iii) the adequate provision of facilities for passengers, such as means of communication between passengers and guard, the exhibition of time-tables, tables of fares, authority for quoting rates, reservation for the exclusive use of women of at least one lowest class compartment, provision of safety catches on the doors of compartments, arrangements for dealing with traffic, booking arrangements and waiting accommodation, refreshment arrangements, latrines including their general sanitary conditions;

(iv) whether adequate arrangements exist for fire fighting, and

(v) the proper maintenance of equipment in relief trains and first-aid boxes, medicine chests, etc.

(d) There are five Government Inspectors of Railways, of whom two are in Calcutta, one each at Lahore, Bombay and Bangalore

(e) and (f) No

(g) This is not one of the functions of the Railway Inspectorate Officers.

(h) No The Inspections are already Stringent and Strict

Seth Govind Das: With respect to clause (d), does the Honourable Member know that the number of inspecting officers in the Central part of the country is very few?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: I have indicated that there are only five Inspectors who are under one Chief Government Inspector of Railways. The headquarters of the circles are in Calcutta, Bombay, Bangalore and Lahore. We have got a very limited staff, I admit.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a part of the function of these inspectors to inspect the inside of carriages, etc., and find out if the fittings etc. are in order or not?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: Yes.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are they expected to report to the Railway Board? What I am anxious about is this inspection is under one department and repairs under another department. I want to know how the functions of the two are co-ordinated.

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: Inspection is done by the officers of the Railway Inspectorate and their recommendations are forwarded to the Railway Board. I might explain to the House that the Railway Inspectorate till 1941 was a part of the Railway Board but it was separated to make it more independent of the Railway Board and it was done after this House accepted that recommendation and recommended it to the Government.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member has accepted that there are practically no Inspectors in the Central part of the country. What is he going to do with respect to this? Is he going to increase the number and see that some Inspectors are appointed for the central part of the country?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: I do not know whether the Honourable Member is referring to the inspectors in the Inspectorate or to the inspectors

who are under the Railway Board. There are two kinds of inspections. What I am concerned with in the Communications Department are the inspectors who see that the safety regulations are observed. The day to day inspections are the responsibility of the Railway Board. I do not know which category of inspectors the Honourable Member is referring to.

Seth Govind Das: I am referring to the Honourable Member's Department.

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: The central area does come under the jurisdiction both of the Railway Inspectors at Bombay and at Calcutta.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the distance is so great between Bombay and Calcutta and Delhi and Bangalore, will Government consider the advisability of having another circle somewhere near Nagpur?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: The increase in the number of circles was considered as part of the post-war plans.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made to increase the number of inspectors?

Mr. Masarrat Husain Zuberi: We are finding it difficult to staff the few circles that we already have.

FOOD STORAGE AT PORTS

1094. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state what are the details of the long range food storage plans at vital ports?

(b) Which ports are considered vital and why?

(c) What is the total estimated cost of the project?

(d) In how many years will the work of constructing these warehouses be done and by what machinery?

(e) Have Government considered in the preparation of these plans the effect of the proposed Karachi-Bombay broad gauge railway, which passes through the port of Kandla in Cutch?

(f) If not, do Government propose to consider the desirability of having the scheme re-examined?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) The long range food storage plans under Government's consideration are based upon the recommendations of the Krishanama-chari Committee, a copy of the summary of whose recommendations is in the library of the House.

(b) No decision has yet been taken regarding the location of food storage accommodation

(c) The cost of the project has not yet been estimated. This can only be done after a decision regarding the location, capacity and type of storage to be constructed has been taken

(d) As no decision has yet been taken about the type and capacity of the storage accommodation to be built, it is not possible to state the period required for construction, and the agency to be employed for the purpose.

(e) and (f) Government will bear in mind the improvement in communications as a result of the construction of proposed Karachi-Bombay broad gauge railway

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Government have their own Storage Directorate and also that the report of the Committee has been with the Government for more than six months, why is it that the Government of India maintain even today that they are still considering the recommendations of that Committee in regard to storage and the making of plans for the construction of warehouses?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The report of the Committee has only just been received. A summary has been forwarded to Government in advance but no decision could be taken until the complete report of the Committee had been received.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Having regard to the extensive storage godowns which have been built by Provincial Governments, will the Honourable Member tell us what order of sums are intended to be spent on these warehouses at the principal ports and which of the ports have been selected for this purpose?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: As I have already stated, no decision has been taken regarding the location of the storage accommodation to be built. I might point out that the Committee has estimated that the cost of the additional accommodation will be six crores of rupees.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May we not know the policy which the Government of India have, as the number of large warehouses to be erected at various ports will naturally depend on the policy if the Government, as to how much food reserve they intend to carry in future in their own hands?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: No decision has yet been taken but I might point out that the Committee has recommended that the emergency food reserve should be about $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: May I know if it is the policy of the Government to import foodstuffs even after the present food shortage is tided over?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: That is largely a question of the future and if there is no necessity to import foodgrains the Honourable Member may rest assured that none will be imported.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: What then is the use of spending so many crores on storage accommodation?

Mr. President: That would be argumentative.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it proposed to locate the storage accommodation only at ports and not at central places?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: No decision has yet been taken but the Committee has recommended that the bulk of this accommodation should be constructed at the ports.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: In these matters are the Provincial Governments consulted?

(No answer was given)

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the Committee to which the Honourable Member has been referring all the time? Is it the Gregory Committee?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: No, Sir. I was referring to the Committee which was presided over by Sir V. T. Krishnamachari.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Gregory Committee report made a definite and specific recommendation about building up a reserve stock for the whole of India and may I know whether this Krishnamachari Committee has made any departure from the recommendations of the Gregory Committee? Is the Honourable Member also aware that the Gregory Committee never contemplated the location of grain storage godowns at ports in India but at central places?

Mr. President: This is entering into an argument.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: No, Sir. I am referring to two distinct Committees. I want to know whether this Committee has made any departure from the recommendations of the Gregory Committee on the identical subject.

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Copies of both the reports are in the library of the House and I think the Honourable Member will be able to get the necessary information from them.

DISPOSAL OF APPEALS BY THE INCOME TAX TRIBUNALS

1095. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of appeals submitted to the Income-tax Tribunals annually during the last three years;
- (b) the number of appeals disposed of every year and appeals that were transferred to succeeding years;
- (c) the revenue derived by way of fees on appeals preferred and the amount which Government contribute for the maintenance of the Tribunals;
- (d) the authority under which they are being administered;
- (e) the official status of the Tribunal Members;
- (f) whether they are being recruited on the basis of provincial representation;
- (g) whether they are qualified in the Provincial languages;
- (h) whether it is possible to recruit members to the Tribunals with a regional relationship having qualifications in the Provincial or regional languages;
- (i) whether Government propose to appoint in future to the Income-Tax Tribunals members belonging to regions over which they are expected to have jurisdiction and having knowledge of the regions they are to work for; and
- (j) the number of Tribunal Members in India at present functioning from each Province together with the names of the Provinces they belong to?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: (a), (b), (c) and (j). A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table.

(d) Section 5A of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922

(e) The official status of the Members of the Tribunal is that of Officers of Class I, Central Services.

(f) No.

(g) Most of the Members know Hindi or Hindustani, but none of them are proficient in all the languages of the provinces within their respective jurisdiction

(h) and (i) No. It would not be possible to recruit members of the Tribunal on a regional basis without considerably increasing the number of members which is not feasible unless the relevant provision of the Act limiting the maximum number of members to ten is amended. Government are however satisfied that no inconvenience is now caused to parties by reason of the members of the Tribunal not knowing the languages in which the account books are kept as these are examined by the Income-tax Officers and where there is a dispute about the translation of a document the party producing it is required to submit a translation certified by the official translator of the High Court.

Statement

(a) Number of appeals instituted

Year	I. T. appeals	E. P. T. appeals	Total
1943-44	1953	364	2317
1944-45	2570	451	3021
1945-46 4	3038	660	3698

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(b) Number of appeals disposed of

Year	I. T. appeals	E. P. T. appeals	Total
1943-44	1683	223	1906
1944-45	1917	377	2294
1945-46	1769	263	2052

Number of appeals remaining undisposed of and carried forward

Year	I. T. appeals	E. P. T. appeals	Total
1943-44	1327	273	1600
1944-45	1980	347	2327
1945-46	3249	724	3973

is derived by way of fees and expenses of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal.

Year	Revenue	Expenditure
	Rs	Rs.
1943-44	1,96,950	3,70,555
1944-45	2,49,800	4,37,339
1945-46	2,90,800	4,52,939

(i) Number of Tribunal Members at present functioning from different Provinces.

Benches	Jurisdiction	No. of Members	Province of origin
Bombay Benches	Bombay, C. P. & Berar, Sind, Baluchistan, Delhi, Ajmer, Abu.	4	2 from Punjab 1 from Bombay. 1 from Madras.
Calcutta Bench	Bengal, Assam, Bihar	2	1 from Bihar. 1 from Bombay.
Allahabad Bench	U. P., Punjab, N. W. F. P.	2	1 from U. P. 1 from Bombay.
Madras Bench	Madras, Orissa, Bangalore.	2	2 from Bengal.

Seth Govind Das: With respect to clause (g) of the question, the Honourable Member said that they know Hindustani. Is the Honourable Member aware that even in the Hindustani speaking areas there are many members of these tribunals who do not know Hindustani?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: Sir, I cannot make any definite statement on the point. What the Honourable Member says might be a fact. But as I have stated in my reply to parts (h) and (i) no inconvenience or difficulty has been caused on that account.

Seth Govind Das: Has the Honourable Member received any complaints with respect to this language affair?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who appoints these people and for what term are they appointed?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: They are appointed by the Government on the recommendation of Federal Public Service Commission.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: For what periods?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: Usually on contract basis for a period of five years.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are they recruited from the ranks of lawyers or Accountants or both; are they selected by competition or by mere selection?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: They are appointed by selection by the Federal Public Service Commission and the requisite qualifications are prescribed.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the answer to part (i) of the question, may I know from the Honourable Member whether Government alone are satisfied that there is no hardship or whether the parties also are satisfied that no hardship is caused to them?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: No complaint has yet been received and so the Government are of opinion that no hardship is caused to the parties.

RETIRED INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AS MEMBERS OF THE INCOME-TAX TRIBUNALS

1096. ***Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state whether retired Income-tax Department officers, such as Assistant Commissioners, have been appointed as Members of Income-tax Tribunals?

(b) How many such retired Income-tax Officers are functioning as Members of the Tribunals in this country?

(c) What are the salary and allowances they draw besides their pensions?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: (a) Only one appointment of a retired Officer of the Income-tax Department was made as Accountant Member of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal in pursuance of the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 5A of the Indian Income-tax Act. The officer so appointed has since resigned.

(b) None.

(c) Rs 2,500, inclusive of pension, if any.

Seth Govind Das: For how long did this officer who has now resigned remain in that post?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: For about three years.

Seth Govind Das: And what was the reason for his resignation?

The Honourable Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal: He resigned on the ground of health.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN.

1997. **Mr. Ahmed M. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture please state what decision Government have arrived at in the matter of intensifying the "Grow More Food Campaign" in the country for a period of five years?

(b) Have Government fixed a target for the year 1947?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the question of increase of grants to cultivators, more assistance by the Central Fertiliser Pools and the appointment of an Agricultural Machinery Bureau to assist the agriculturists?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The questions of the financial assistance to be provided during the five years 1947-52 is under the consideration of Government. A statement is placed on the table showing the nature of the works proposed to be undertaken in each province, the acreage to be covered and the increased production expected.

(b) A statement is placed on the table showing the targets which have been accepted by the provinces for the next five years.

(c) These matters are under consideration.

Food grains Production Targets for 1947-48 to 1951-52 Accepted by Provinces

No.	Name of Province	Rice	Wheat	Jowar	Bajra	Total
		tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
1	Baluchistan	..	14,000	..	..	14,000
2	Bengal . . .	785,000	..	..	..	785,000
3	Bihar . . .	250,000	100,000	..	..	350,000
4	Bombay . . .	77,700	45,000	101,000	62,000	285,700
5	Central Provinces .	100,000	70,000	23,000	7,000	200,000
6	Madras . . .	650,000	..	..	..	650,000
7	N. W. F. P. . .	..	48,000	..	..	48,000
8	Orissa . . .	150,000	..	..	..	150,000
9	Punjab . . .	55,000	400,000	..	..	455,000
10	United Provinces . .	170,000	330,000	..	..	500,000
	Total	2,237,700	1,007,000	124,000	69,000	3,437,700

Targets proposed for other provinces.

11	Assam . . .	185,000	..	..	..	185,000
12	Sind . . .	42,000	84,000	..	..	126,000
	Grand Total	2,464,700	1,091,000	124,000	69,000	37,18,700

A Statement showing the Provincial Targets and their Break up :

Province	Schemes	Number of works to be constructed	Seed & manure to be distributed in 1,000 tons	Area in thousand acres	Additional production in thousand tons
1	2	3A	3B	4	5
Bengal .	Mor Irrigation Project . .	..	..	600	250
	Drainage of large Bhils . .	..	..	100	60
	Reclamation of new lands	..	..	50	35
	Manuring of rice lands . .	..	80	1,040	197
	Distribution of improved seeds.	..	..	3,500	224
	Installation of Persian wheels	5,000	..	25	14
	Installation of river pumping Sets.	100	..	10	2
	Construction of Tube-wells	200	..	60	3
	Total .			5,385	785
Bihar .	Construction of surface wells .	50,000	..	300	55
	Minor Irrigation Schemes .	8,000 schemes.	..	800	120
	Reclamation of land . .	..	..	200	90
	Manuring . . . .	..	..	1,400	90
	Construction of Tube-wells .	168	..	58	12
	Small canals & reservoirs .	..	..	120	21
	Total .			2,878	388
Bombay .	Construction of wells . .	50,000	..	..	35
		New wells 10,000 to be improved.			3
	River Pumping Plants . .	..	..	100	20
	Distribution of improved seeds.	..	..	6,094	117
	Distribution of Manure . .	..	..	490	44
	Distribution of Compost .	..	..	600	3
	Land Improvement Schemes .	..	..	600	16
	Mechanical Cultivation of lands	..	..	40	..
				7,954	254+32 Mechanical cultivation

1	2	3A	3B	4	5
C. P. & Berar.	Construction of wells . .	15,000 New wells 5,000 to be improved.	..	..	12
	Construction of new small private tanks.	..	..	25	3
	Irrigation schemes . .	..	..	175	32
	Kans control . . .	..	..	300	60
	Reclamation and colonisation of waste land.	..	..	100	25
	Manures . . . .	..	..	400	63
	River Pumping plants . .	..	..	..	5
Madras				10,00	200
	Multiplication and distribution of improved paddy seeds.	..	..	7,100	..
	Mechanical cultivation .	..	..	75 in 5th year	7
	Construction of new wells and renovation of old wells.	62,500 New and 50,000 old	..	..	55
	Construction and repairs of private tanks.	..	..	10	7
	Private pumping sets . .	35	..	1	..
	Minor irrigation Project. .	214	..	185	20
	Schemes for distribution of manures.	280	..	..	300
	Increase in yield through contour ridging and bunding.	..	..	50	2
	Other schemes . . . .	..	..	..	10
N.W.F.P.				74,21	631 tons of rice, 17 tons of other foodgrains -648 tons
	Irrigation . . . .	..	..	..	20
	Construction of Surface Percolation wells.	..	..	..	10
	Reclamation of waste lands .	..	..	40	13
	Manuring . . . .	..	2 in 5th year.	45	5
				85	48

1	2	3A	3B	4	5
Orissa	Emergency Irrigation Projects.	43 Schemes	..	176	33
	Reclamation of waste lands .	..	..	60	33
	Renovation of old tanks .	..	..	100	8
	Construction of embankments for protection of saline lands.	..	..	30	5
	Drainage of water logged areas	..	..	18	8
	Distribution of manures	..	..	300	22
	Multiplication and distribution of improved seeds.	..	13 in first year. 38 cwt	975	37
				1,659	146 tons
Punjab	Agricultural Schemes	..	..		180 tons
	Irrigation Schemes	..	..		275 "
					455 "
U. P.	Construction of new wells	150,000	..	..	150
	Improvement of existing wells.	100,000	..		30
	Reclamation of lands . .	..	..	250	85
	Construction of contour bunds.	..	..	100	18
	Tube wells	2,000 wells			90
	Manure . . . .	..	200 tons	2,000	222
				2,350	595

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the *Eastern Economist*, a very responsible paper—I daresay my Honourable friend would also admit that it is a very responsible paper—has complained that this Grow More Food Campaign and the targets fixed by the Government of India thereunder are not being pursued vigorously?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: It is perfectly possible, Sir. But I may explain that in the first three years of the Grow More Food Campaign we were able to secure an average annual increased production of three million tons which has been accepted by the provinces who always have a tendency to minimise their production. It is perfectly true that in 1945-46, being a famine year, production was very much below the average.

Sri V. O. Vellingiri Gounder: The Honourable Member says that there has been an annual increased production of three million tons. May I know the extent of increase in crop production on account of the Grow More Food Campaign in each Province?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Sir, the figures are available and if desired I shall be happy to place them on the table of the House.

Sri V. O. Vellingiri Gounder: As far as the Province of Madras is concerned, my information is that there has been no appreciable increase at all.

Mr. President: That is a matter of opinion.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: May I know whether any conditions have been imposed in giving these Grow More Food grants to Provinces? The other day I asked whether Government were considering the imposition of any conditions in spending the money when making grants to provinces.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: No, Sir. The plans provide for the construction of certain specific works for the distribution of a specified amount of seed, or manure as the case may be, and it is presumed that under normal conditions, if the monsoon etc. are not unfavourable, the necessary increased production will automatically result therefrom.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: May I know whether targets have been fixed for each year of the five year plan?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The statement placed on the table shows the targets which have been fixed for every Province.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Have they been fixed for each year?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: No, Sir. We have not fixed the target for each year. We have fixed them crop-wise and it is expected that the ultimate target will be achieved in the course of five years. The process of dividing up this target into the amounts to be achieved year by year is still under discussion with the Provinces.

Prof. N. G. Banga: What is the general trend of the report made to Government by Mr. Sethi who has recently gone round all the Provinces in order to examine how this Grow More Food Campaign is being carried on?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: He went round primarily to get the targets fixed for the Provinces, and these targets show that it is possible to secure from the Provinces an increased production of 3.70 million tons per year, by the end of the five year period.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know for how many years India will continue to rely on foreign imports and the approximate date when India will be self sufficient of her own supplies?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I cannot answer that question, but as I have said before, if all the facilities that are required in the shape of money, men, material, priorities, etc. can be made available, there is no reason why India should not become self-supporting in the space of a period of from five to ten years.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: With reference to part (c) of the question may I know what steps Government have taken, by way of the appointment of an Agricultural Machinery Bureau or any attempts in that line, to provide more agricultural machinery to the Provinces apart from the tractor?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Proposals have been put up and are at present under discussion with the Finance Department for the setting up of a Bureau for making tractors and other agricultural machinery available to Provinces either on sale or on hire as may be found suitable.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: May I know how long the proposal will take to materialise?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: That is beyond my power to say. It will depend on the necessary sanction from the Finance Department.

POSITION REGARDING CLOTH SUPPLY

1098. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please lay on the table of the House a statement on the present position of cloth supplies in the country?

(b) What is the cause of the present shortage of woollen cloth in the country?

(c) What measures do Government propose to take to stimulate the production of cloth and especially of woollen cloth in the country?

(d) Are Government aware that the shortage of cloth is more serious now than at any time during the War?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b) As regards cotton cloth, I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to question No. 340 asked by the Honourable Shri D. P. Karmarkar on 17th February 1947. The only shortage is in respect of the finer types of light-weight woven woollen goods which are worn by the well-to-do. India's production of these types is not enough to meet requirements, and imports are at present inadequate to fill up the deficiency.

(c) As regards stimulation of production of cotton cloth, I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to question No. 340 asked by the Honourable Shri D. P. Karmarkar on 17th February 1947. As regards woollens, the Government of India have arranged for the import of about 98,000 spindles.

(d) As regards cotton cloth. Yes Sir. As regards woollen cloth. No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable the Supply Minister give information to this House as to the probable quantity of cotton cloth which is coming to this country from Japan in interchange for cotton supplied to Japan?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I do not think figures can be ready now, Sir, but in course of time if I am reminded I shall try to get them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if no effort is being made to get cotton yarn instead of cotton cloth from Japan in exchange for our cotton in view of the fact that our handloom weavers want yarn and not cotton in this country?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: There is no question of exchange for the cotton, Sir, but I may just mention to the Honourable Member that a certain quantity of yarn has been offered by the American authorities from Japan at a very high price.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that 300 million yds. of yarn are coming from Japan?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Notice, Sir.

IMPURE SUPPLY OF MILK

1099. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to place on the table of the House a full report of the investigation conducted by Mr. Pepperall, the Chief Regional Officer of the British Milk Marketing Board who conducted an enquiry last year into India's Dairy Industry?

(b) Are Government aware that Mr Pepperall declared in his Report that "London's sewage was three times as safe to drink as milk supplied by dealers in Bombay, Calcutta and other cities in India"?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of introducing legislation on the question of Milk Supplies to the people and recommend similar legislation in the Provinces?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of establishing similar institutions for the supply of pure milk as those obtaining in the cities in the west for safeguarding the health of the people?

(e) Are Government aware that over 90 per cent. of the illness of expectant mothers and children in India are due to impure supplies of milk?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) A copy of the report is in the library of the House.

(b) There is no such declaration in his report. But a statement to this effect was made by him orally, which was dealt with in my reply to part (c) of question No. 146, asked by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 11th February, 1946.

(c) No specific legislation has been recommended by Mr. Pepperall. Legislation for the prevention of adulteration already exists in all Provinces.

(d) It has been suggested to provinces that they should take suitable steps for the prevention of adulteration on the one hand and for increasing the milk supply on the other. Help is given to Provinces for the establishment of dairies and for improving the milk supply.

(e) Government have no specific information as to the extent of illness among expectant mothers and children in India on account of impure milk but they are aware of the fact that there is a considerable amount of under nutrition due to lack of adequate protective foods including milk.

Seth Govind Das: Are the Government aware that the deficiency in the supply of milk is also due to the indiscriminate slaughter of cows and buffaloes and does the Honourable Member know that though the age limit has been fixed for the slaughter, yet those instructions are not followed in the provinces?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: Definite restrictions have been laid down in most of the provinces. The enforcement of those restrictions rests with the Provincial Governments.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What is being done in the Centrally administered areas in respect of the prevention of the slaughter of cattle?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: I believe the same restrictions which are applicable in other provinces apply to Ajmer-Merwara and I think they are also applicable in Coorg. I am not sure whether there are any restrictions in Delhi, because Delhi follows what the Punjab usually do.

Sri V. O. Vellingiri Gounder: What does dairy industry mean? Does it mean that skimmed milk powder from foreign countries is converted into milk by industrial process?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: No, Sir. Dairy industry really refers to the maintenance of dairy farms at which milk is produced in the country and then made available if necessary after pasteurisation to those who need it.

PRIORITY OF SUPPLY OF PUMPS, MOTORS AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS TO P. S. G. CHARITABLE AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE, COIMBATORE, MADRAS

1100. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) if Government are aware that one P S G Charitable and Industrial Institute, Coimbatore, Madras Presidency, who were producing pumps, motors and agricultural implements has given notice of closing their business from 1st February, 1947 for want of coal and pig iron,

(b) if Government have considered the question of giving them priority for supply of those two materials as part of the "Grow More Food Campaign", and

(c) if Government propose to consider the desirability of instructing other engineering concerns in British India to give preference to the production of pumps, motors and other agricultural implements for some years?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: (a) Yes

(b) A statement showing the quantities of pig iron, and steel of various categories supplied and allocated to the firm is placed on the table. A monthly quota of one wagon of Hard Coke and one wagon of Steam Coal has been sanctioned for the firm by the Provincial Coal Controller, Madras. In a letter dated 7th December 1946, to the Government of India, the firm explained their difficulty with regard to restricted supplies of coal. The Provincial Coal Controller, Madras, was asked to give the firm all possible assistance considering the important nature of the work done by them.

The difficulties on account of restricted supplies have not been peculiar to this firm alone. In fact all industries in South India have equally suffered by the short supplies of Coal and pig iron resulting from the acute wagon

shortage in the Bengal and Bihar coal fields coupled with the poor shipping despatches owing to strikes at the Calcutta Docks as also due to booking restrictions to South India owing to floods

(c) Government are encouraging firms to make all possible efforts to augment the existing capacity and establish additional capacity for pumps motors and agricultural implements

STATEMENT
Pig Iron

In lent Number	Quantity demanded (Wagonload)	Quantity supplied to the firm
(i) No C/SP 1173 46 dated 24th September 1946 on Tatas	6	5 wagons despatched on 11th January 1947 1 wagon despatched on 24th January 1947
(ii) No C SP 1638 46 dated 25th December 1946 on Tatas	12	6 wagons despatched on 10th February 1947 3 wagons despatched on 12th February 1947 1 wagon despatched on 13th February 1947 1 wagon despatched on 14th February 1947 1 wagon despatched on 17th February 1947
(iii) No 201 dated 17th June 1946 on Indian Iron & Steel Co Ltd Bombay	3	3 wagons despatched on between 23rd January 1947 to 4th February 1947
(iv) No 214 dated 28th August 1946 on Indian Iron & Steel Co Ltd Bombay	12	3 wagons despatched on 26th February 1947 (out of the balance 9 wagons 4 wagons were to be despatched in early March)

Steel

In additi on to the pig Iron mentioned above the following quantities of steel in various categories have been allocated to the firm for periods I and II of 1947 —

For manufacture of	Period I/47	Period II/47
	(Tons)	(Tons)
(i) Sugar Mill Machinery	13 8	8 0
(ii) Textile Machinery	26 05	16 0
(iii) Power driven Pumps	4 1	4 0
(iv) Rice Dal, Flour Mill Machinery	6 525	8 0
(v) Agricultural Implements	27 1	22 0
(vi) Electric Motors	26 75	16 8
Total	104 325	74 8

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: May I know whether the Institute referred to in part (a) of the question has closed its business from 1st February 1947 for want of coal and pig iron?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I have no information on that point.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: In view of the difficulty of wagon transport in the Southern part of the Madras Presidency, will not the Government consider a certain amount of priority being given to transport this iron in the province?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Priority is being given to such transport. I think the House will remember that a Bill was introduced and has been passed recently in order to ensure this priority continuing in the future also.

RATIONED FOODSTUFFS IN NEW DELHI

1101. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state

- (a) the names of various food-stuffs which are rationed in New Delhi;
- (b) the amount of ration permitted to each individual;
- (c) if there is any rationing in meat; and
- (d) if rationed grain is permitted to meat-eaters in the same quantity as to vegetarians?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) Rice, wheat, wheat products, maize, barley, gram and sugar, also grain *dal* and *besan*.

(b) The daily cereal group ration for an adult is six chhataks and that for a child is three chhataks. Persons classified as heavy manual workers get an extra two chhataks daily. In addition two chhataks of gram *dal* and/or *besan* are given weekly to an adult and half of it to a child. The size of the sugar ration is four chhataks per head (whether adult or child) weekly.

(c) No, Sir

(d) Yes, Sir

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member tell us whether servants in private houses are classed under 'manual labourers entitled to an extra amount or not'?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Domestic servants are not classed as manual labourers.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that servants require a larger quantity of food than their masters, could the Honourable Member consider the desirability of classing them, under manual labourers and giving them an extra amount? Otherwise what happens is that they eat up all our food and we have very little left for ourselves.

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The classification of manual labourers is restricted to those doing heavy work. I am afraid domestic servants are not eligible for this classification.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask if lump sugar which is consumed by the rich people is not rationed? And if it is not rationed, has the Government of India any other object except to benefit the wealthier classes?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: It is true that lump or cube sugar is not rationed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it so?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The production is under six hundred tons only.

Lala Dechandh Gupta: Is it a fact that for people in the rural areas only one chhatak of sugar is allowed?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: In the rural areas the sugar ration is usually smaller than in urban areas. They have their *gur* available.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta Have Government received any representation from the rural areas that the sugar ration should be increased?

Mr K L Panjabi I must require notice of that

Mr N M Joshi May I ask whether it is the intention of Government to ration lump sugar also

Mr K L Panjabi No Sir

Shri Sri Prakasa With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question may I ask if in view of the fact that meat is not a vegetable but is taken in lieu of rice and wheat the Honourable Member will consider the desirability either of rationing meat or of giving an extra amount of wheat and rice to vegetarians

Mr K L Panjabi I have already replied to the latter part of the Honourable Member's question. I said that we cannot increase the ration for vegetarians. As regards the suggestion that meat should be rationed I am afraid it is not practicable

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri In view of the fact that the ration of rice which is given to persons coming from Bengal and Assam is quite inadequate may I know if rice is available in the black market here?

Mr President The question is restricted to New Delhi only

Shri Sri Prakasa Could the Honourable Member explain to us as to why it is not practicable to ration meat. Is it not a fact that it is easier to count animals that are going to be slaughtered for food than the amount of wheat and rice that can be sold

Mr K L Panjabi It will take too long to explain the difficulties of rationing meat but may I point out that vegetables are also not rationed

Shri Sri Prakasa Why should we vegetarians suffer from the difficulties of Government

Mr President The Honourable Member is now entering into argument

Shri Sri Prakasa You Sir should have sympathy with me

Seth Govind Das Is it not a fact that meat is rationed in the United Kingdom and in so many other countries?

Mr K L Panjabi Meat is rationed in the United Kingdom

Seth Govind Das Then why can it not be rationed here?

Mr President Order order it is obvious. Next question

LIFTING OF CONTROL ON CLOTH

1102 ***Shri Sri Prakasa** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) how long control on cloth is likely to last

(b) if Government have received representations that control on cloth should be lifted

(c) if Government have received reports that the Indian mills can actually produce more cloth but are unable to do so because of various legal restrictions and

(d) if Government propose to examine the situation and enable the mills to produce more cloth?

The Honourable Sri O Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b) Government have received representations mostly from dealers that control should be lifted. As soon as there are indications of public confidence that the trade will play the game and that they will get the cloth they require in all areas at reasonable prices in spite of the gap between demand and production, the control over distribution will be discontinued

(c) The question is not clear but if the reference is to restrictions by way of regional distribution on prescribed quotas it cannot affect production. If the reference is to statutory restrictions on hours of work, the matter has been dealt with more than once in the House.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question, has he examined the statement made by Mr. Vadilal in the House the other day that mills have actually pulled up if they tried to produce more cloth?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: No, Sir. If any mills produce more cloth, I propose to give them rewards.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that some of the Indian States are receiving much more rationed cloth than the British area and regular trade is going on in those States? People can get at least three times more than what they can get in Delhi or other places in British India?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I should like specific information on which I can make inquiries. I cannot assume that all this is going on in the Indian States.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question, could he explain to us the phenomenon that anybody who wants cloth can get it in any quantity he likes from underground?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If that were so, there would be no complaint at all. I cannot accept that fact, namely, that anybody can get any amount of cloth by digging the earth.

INSTRUCTIONS TO POST OFFICES re UNCLAIMED INTEREST DUE TO MUSLIM DEPOSITORS

1103. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Secretary of the Communication Department be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to all the Post Offices in India to keep accounts of amounts in respect of unclaimed interest due to the Muslims who refuse to accept interest on religious grounds, and

(b) the amount of interest so far accrued in all the post offices throughout India during the year 1946?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: (a) Yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued to Audit Officers to make arrangements for keeping separate accounts of interest foregone by Muslim depositors on their Savings Bank accounts beginning from the year 1946-47.

(b) Interest on Savings Bank accounts is calculated at the end of each financial year. The figure for 1946-47 are not yet available.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are persons who deposit their money in post offices asked whether they would take any interest or not?

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi: They have to intimate themselves.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will any effort be made to offer such people for such an exemplary behaviour some rewards?

Mr. President: Order, order; next question.

SEPARATE PANELS FOR GROUPS OF INDUSTRIES...

†1104. *Sri A. K. Menon: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to form separate panels for different groups of Industries under the guidance of the Director General of Industries and Supplies? If so, are soap and glycerine among such industries?

(b) In case such panels are formed, do Government propose to include therein representatives of Industrialists with technical knowledge?

(c) Is there a proposal to enforce a cut in the supply of caustic soda to soap manufacturers? If so, do Government propose to take steps to see that small manufacturers are not affected by such cuts?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) 37 working committees have already been set up to maintain close liaison between the Director General and important Industries in the country. One of the Committees deals with the Soaps and Glycerine Industry.

(b) These Committees consist of technical experts and representatives of principal manufacturers selected with due regard to past performance, and potential capacity.

(c) Due to a recent fall in import it has become necessary to effect a cut on all industries consuming caustic soda, viz., Textiles, Paper, Vanaspathi, Metal, Chemicals, etc. The requirements of caustic soda are at present far in excess of what is available by way of imports and local production. A cut has also been imposed on soap-manufacturing units both big and small. The most efficient utilisation of such quantities of caustic soda as are available has to be kept in mind.

DISTRIBUTION OF CEYLON COCONUT OIL TO SOAP MANUFACTURERS THROUGH MESSRS TATA AND COMPANY

†1105. *Sri A. K. Menon: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the distribution of Ceylon coconut oil to soap manufacturers is effected through Messrs Tata and Company?

(b) Have Government obtained the opinion of the Indian Central Coconut Committee on the matter? If so, do Government propose to place a copy of it on the table of the House?

(c) What is the final decision arrived at by Government on this subject in the light of the above opinion?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: Messrs Ganesh Khopra Mills, Karachi, act as Government's agents for the distribution of Ceylon copra and coconut oil to the Punjab, Sind, N-W F P and Baluchistan, and Messrs. Tata Oil Mills as regards Madras, Bombay and Bengal.

Government have considered a resolution passed by the Indian Central Coconut Committee on the subject at its fourth meeting held in October last. The Committee was constituted under the Indian Coconut Committee Act of 1944 for the improvement and development of coconuts in India and not for the regulation of the distribution of coconuts or coconut products imported from abroad. Coconut oil is in very short supply, and is likely to continue so, inasmuch as there is no likelihood of indigenous production plus imports coming upto the country's essential needs for some years. A small quantity of Ceylon copra and coconut oil is being imported on Government account under a purchase made from H M G. Similar allocations may possibly be made by the U S A. The Central Government is directly responsible for such transactions and for the distribution of any commodities so acquired. On all grounds it is not practicable to entrust the distribution of imported copra and coconut oil to the Indian Central Coconut Committee.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

RESTRICTION ON WAGON FACILITIES FOR TRANSPORT OF BETEL-LEAVES FROM TIRUR IN MADRAS

1106. *Sri A. K. Menon: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that representations have been received from betel-growers of Malabar to the effect that consequent on the wagon facilities for transport of betel-leaves from Tirur and other places having been restricted recently they have to suffer great losses, and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to afford better facilities for them in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Railway Administration reports that arrangements are in hand to provide suitable stock with the assistance of the M & S M and G I. P. Railways for the transport of betel-leaves traffic since the number of Parcel Vans which can be spared on the South Indian Railway for this traffic is limited

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SECOND AND INTER CLASS ACCOMMODATION ON THROUGH TRAINS ON M. AND S. M., G I. P. AND N. W. RAILWAYS

1107. Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that for the past 12 months, most of the 1st class compartments in trains on the main railway lines in India are running empty except for first class pass-holders and the like, owing to the popularity of air travel,

(b) whether Government are aware that the second class compartments are over-crowded and railway officials refuse to accommodate surplus 2nd class passengers in empty second class compartments,

(c) whether Government propose to take steps for increasing the number of second class berths and propose to take steps for increasing the number of through trains on the Madras and more intermediate class bogies on all and North Western Railways, Southern Mahratta, Great Indian Peninsula

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to attach one full inter class bogie to all the principal trains on South Indian Railway and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway at the 1st April, if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No Sir. On the contrary enquiries made from the Railways show that the second class accommodation on main line trains is being fully utilized on almost all trains.

(b) On some Railways second class compartments are over-crowded. Passengers cannot be permitted like other compartments than that for which they have paid the fare, to travel in a higher class

(c) Second class accommodation on 35 U. Expresses and 75 Up and 76 Down Dehra Doon Expresses and 36 Down Delhi-Lahore and Amritsar on the N. W. Railway has recently been increased between Lahore and Amritsar. Second class accommodation on other lines between Lahore and Amritsar is possible at present. No increase in second class accommodation is possible at present on the N.W. with the maximum permissible loads.

(d) From information available it is clear that for the purpose of providing a full inter class bogie carriage on all back and room trains the S I. and M & S M. Railway Administration in a position to provide a full inter class bogie carriage on all back and room trains. Government consider therefore that the issue of instructions in a position to provide a full inter class bogie carriage on all back and room trains. the Honourable Member would not be feasible.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When will Government implement their recent decision to abolish the first class?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That question has got to be finally decided in consultation with the Standing Finance Committee for Railways as regards the financial implications of the proposal.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: There are three trains running between Madras and the West Coast and in spite of that only seating accommodation is provided at night in the Blue Mountain Express. Will the Railway Department provide sleeping accommodation also in the Blue Mountain Express?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It will be possible to provide that, if we are able to get more coaching staff.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that equal numbers of first and second class compartments are provided in trains and in view further of the fact that more second class passengers travel than first class passengers, will the Honourable Member take steps to provide more second class compartments than first class ones?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is not possible to reduce first class accommodation at present, because, as I told the House, the present accommodation is utilised fully, so that the only way to meet the situation is by increasing second class coaches. That, again, raises the question of availability of coaches.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In the meanwhile, Government should stop further construction of new first class coaches pending their decision.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, that is so. The question of increasing the number of coaches corresponding to the present classification has got to be considered in the light of that decision.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know what exactly is the Honourable Member's idea about the fullness of a first class compartment and the fullness of the other classes?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Since we have notice of this question, we sent an enquiry to the principal railways, and the reports that I have received have convinced me that first class accommodation is being utilised fully, and when I say full it means just fully.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Honourable Member verify the answer that he gave to part (a) of the question by travelling in one of the trains himself?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have done so.

STATES IN CIVIL AVIATION

COORDINATION: Will the Secretary of the Communications State

1108. ***Pandit Sri Krishna:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to establish an All-India Board with con-

(a) whether Government matters of civil aviation to ensure co-ordination between the States in connection with the organisation of the Civil

(b) the progress of the Civil Aviation Training Centre under the consideration of the Government of India.

Mr. Masarat: At the Civil Aviation Training Centre will comprise

(b) It is aeronautical Engineering and Mechanics School, the Flying Training School, and four schools have been functioning for about three months and are now the first.

engaged on giving training to subordinate technical personnel urgently required for the Civil Aviation Directorate. It is hoped to start the Flying Training and Aircraft Engineer and Mechanics Schools later in 1947.

Prof N G Ranga Will this Board consist of only technical men or also non technical people sit on this Board?

Mr Masarrat Husain Zuberi Both because it will be concerned both with technical matters and general policy matters.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta Where is the training centre located?

Mr Masarrat Husain Zuberi We have started it temporarily in Saharanpur.

Prof N G Ranga Will the Government consider the advisability of seeing that the users as well as this House will be properly represented on that Board?

Mr Masarrat Husain Zuberi The question of constitution of the Board was discussed at the Civil Aviation Conference convened last month by the Honourable Member for Communications and the various proposals put forward are under consideration.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

CONSTRUCTION OF STABILISED EARTH ROADS

1109 *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state

(a) whether stabilised earth roads have been constructed so far anywhere in the country and

(b) the approximate cost of such roads per mile and the period of their life?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (a) 25 miles of stabilised earth roads were constructed in the Punjab in 1944-45 and another 32 miles are being constructed. The Punjab Government have programmed for the construction of a further 112 miles. Very little construction of this type of road has so far been done elsewhere in India.

(b) The average cost of the experimental work was about Rs. 8,900 per mile in the first stretch of 25 miles and Rs. 8,900 per mile in the second.

As the work is still experimental the serviceable life of this type of construction in India is not known. Under light traffic and the particular climatic conditions obtaining the roads constructed in the Punjab in 1944-45 have so far stood fairly well.

MUSLIMS IN THE SECTION ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

1110 *Mr Ahmed E H Jaffer Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Establishment of the Directorate General of Industries and Supplies is split up into eleven Sections viz. A/F 1 to A/F 7, Central Administration, CC-PM, DG-MP and Calcutta Cells.

(b) whether it is a fact that out of the eight Superintendents for these eleven sections there is no Muslim, if so the reasons therefor.

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no Muslim in the DGMP Cell, if so the reasons therefor and

(d) whether it is a fact that in the Calcutta and CC-PM Cells there are only 1 and 2 Muslims respectively in the lowest grade, if so why no Muslim has been posted in higher grades in these cells?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) There are 18 Administration Sections and Cells in all.

(b) Twelve of these sections are in the charge of Superintendents, of whom three are Muslims.

(c) and (d) There is no Muslim at present in the D. G. M. P. Cell. It is not possible to provide for Communal representation in each section and cell. No significance attaches to the number of persons of a particular community in particular section.

RESERVATION OF HESSIAN FROM BENGAL FOR IMPLEMENTING THE INDO-ARGENTINE AGREEMENT

1111. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state what price Government are prepared to pay for hessian from Bengal to be reserved for implementing the Indo-Argentine agreement?

(b) Have Government received any representations from Bengal Commercial bodies protesting against the rates quoted by Government as being far lower than prevalent prices?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b). This matter is now before the High Court in Calcutta. As difficulties arose in obtaining possession of the Hessian from the parties in possession pending decision of the Court, the recent Ordinance was issued to enable the Government of India to meet its obligations under the Indo-Argentine Agreement. The Ordinance provides for payment in accordance with the Court's decision. The matter is *sub judice*.

PRICE OF COCONUT OIL AND COPRA

1112. ***Sri A. K. Menon:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the great discount that prevails among the growers of coconuts and producers of coconut oil and copra on account of the inadequacy of the prices fixed for these commodities by Government? If so, do Government propose to conduct an investigation and see that the growers and the producers get proper prices?

(b) Are Government aware that owing to defective control, consumers are unable to obtain coconuts and their products in markets as freely as before the control was introduced?

(c) In view of the fact that other oils are de-controlled, do Government propose to consider the advisability of removing controls over copra and coconut oil also?

The Honourable Sri O. Rajagopalachari: (a) Government have received representations from certain quarters on the subject, but on examination it is found that the growers and producers have no legitimate grievance in the matter of prices of copra and coconut oil fixed by Government. The trouble seems to be traceable to weakness of control over smuggling through Travancore. The question of fixing the prices of coconuts has been left to the Governments of Provinces and States concerned. It is understood that the Madras Government have fixed Rs. 125 per thousand nuts as compared with an average price of Rs. 27/10/- per thousand nuts during the ten years ending 1942-43. The control price of copra now works out to 700, that is to say, roughly double the index number for rice and wheat. Prices of coconut oil at Cochin in April 1938 and 1939 were Rs. 61 and Rs. 58/8 per candv. The controlled price now is Rs. 310 per candy. As the prices in all cases are far in excess of the pre-war prices, no special investigation is considered necessary.

(b) Government have been told by a deputation from Cochin that this is so.

(c) Copra and coconut oil are in a special category both because these are largely used for industrial purposes unlike other edible oils and also because coconut oil is the only oil at present imported into India. The present controls

of coconut oil and copra carry with them a guarantee of minimum prices, which growers appreciated until other oils were decontrolled and prospects arose of securing further and unlimited higher prices than at present. The Government have invited the views of the Governments of Madras, Travancore, Cochin and Mysore as to how the existing coconut oil and copra controls are working in their respective areas and what effect the recent decontrol of other oils is having on coconut oil. The question of decontrolling these commodities will be considered in the light of their views.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MILK MARKETING ADVISER

1113. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 222 asked on 12th February 1947, regarding the recommendations contained in the report of Mr. Pepperall, Milk Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture kindly state

- (a) how far the scheme of salvage of dry cattle mentioned by him has progressed;
- (b) since when such a scheme is pending;
- (c) whether any action has been taken under the said scheme,
- (d) if so, how many cattle have been salvaged under the said scheme,
- (e) if the scheme has not yet emerged from the chrysalis state, how long it will take to give it a concrete shape;
- (f) what the contemplated cost of the scheme is;
- (g) whether any lands have been acquired under the said scheme, if so, how much and where, and
- (h) whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the complete outline of the scheme?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a), (b) and (c). The scheme has been in operation in Bombay since August 1944, in Madras since November, 1944. It is expected that it will be brought into operation in Calcutta in April 1947.

(d) Bombay 33,000 a year, Madras 300 a year. Calcutta propose to salvage 500 a year

(e) Does not arise

(f) The actual expenditure in 1945-46 was Rs. 8 lakhs in Bombay and Rs. 31,800 in Madras. It is proposed to spend Rs. 14 lakhs in five years at Calcutta.

(g) A statement is placed on the table.

(h) An outline of the Bombay scheme is placed on the table. Other schemes are along similar lines.

Statement

Bombay

The Bombay Government had established Farms at—

- (1) Palghar for 300 cattle.
- (2) Jamner in East Khandesh for 1,000 cattle.
- (3) Kael in the Panch-Mahals District for 1,000 cattle (was likely to be closed).
- (4) Kedgaon in Sholapur District for 500 buffaloes (was to be established in 1946-47).
- (5) Pimpalgaon in Nasik District for 700 buffaloes (was to be established in 1946-47).

The Bombay Humanitarian League who are executing a part of this scheme have established salvage centres at Mehana, Sidhpur and Patna in Baroda territory, at Chhapi in Palanpur State, at Kanjri in Kaira District, Virangam in Ahmedabad District and at Bagalkot in Bijapur District.

Madras :

Madras Government have selected Kancha No. 40 of the Kambakkam Reserve Forest, Ponneri Taluk Chingleput District. The Kancha is about 1,700 acres in area.

Calcutta :

The Bengal Government propose to acquire 1,000 higha land from a Zamindar at Mouza Ohuadanga in District Nadia.

[21st MAR 1947]

Note on action taken by Government of Bombay regarding shortage of milch cattle from Bombay City and Suburbs

Conditions under which milch cattle are kept—The milch supply of Bombay City and suburbs is obtained mainly from about 19,000 buffaloes kept in the City and about 32,000 in the suburbs. The number of cows in the City and suburbs is only 850 and 1,950 respectively. Due to high cost of maintaining cattle stable rent wages etc. only good quality milch cattle are required for the purpose of production of milk and they are imported mainly from the Punjab and Punjab States, Delhi Province, United Provinces, Kathiawar and Gujarat.

2 The conditions in which these animals are kept are however far from satisfactory and especially in the suburbs (in several cases) appalling. This is inevitable so long as the system of keeping milch cattle in a congested city like Bombay prevails. Most of the stables are so constructed and the facilities are so poor that it is almost impossible to keep them clean even if the occupants wished to do so. Hardly any space exists for exercise and the cattle have to spend their entire period of lactation in the limited space where they are tethered. The animals have to be stall fed and the tendency is to overfeed them so as to get as much milk out of them as possible. How far overfeeding helps the object is not definitely known. Excepting for 2 or 3 months of the noonson season, grass is fed to the cattle. Feeding of salt in the ration is done by only a few. All the unnatural conditions ultimately tell upon the utility of the animals in the subsequent lactations.

3 More than half of the milch cattle in the city and suburbs are owned by persons whose resources are very slender and who are uneducated. Large cattle owners are very few. This is another reason why the care of the cattle or the production of milk is not based on any scientific or long range considerations. Although exact information is not available it is not unlikely that the cattle are also subjected to the malpractices of 'Phuk' etc. to extract the last drop of milk out of them. The majority of the cattle owners are in different towns and purposely allow them to die of starvation so that they may be able to sell all the milk given by the buffalo. It is significant, however, that they look after the calves of cows and rear them properly. This is perhaps due to the very small number of such calves (concerned).

4 Upto about 2 years ago, the majority of the owners used to sell their dry buffaloes to butchers and replenish their stock every ninth or tenth month with fresh buffaloes as this method was said to be cheaper. Sending them out to suitable places for refreshering and incurring expenditure on their maintenance during the dry period was done only by a few who had grazing lands near Bombay.

5 Due to restrictions on the export of buffaloes from other Provinces and States however the replacement of dry buffaloes by fresh ones has become very difficult. The Punjab (including the Punjab States) which used to provide over 2,500 buffaloes per month and which represented 25 per cent of the total imports now allows only 1,000 animals per month. Baroda State has altogether banned the export of fresh buffaloes. The U. P. Government has fixed a quota of only 300 milch cattle per month for export to this Province. Ahmedabad and Kaira Districts altogether allow 550 cattle per month for Bombay and Bombay Suburban District. Thus the animals now available replace only about 35 per cent of the buffaloes going dry each month.

6 *Measures taken by Government*—In the circumstances explained above the only way to maintain the production of milk at a satisfactory level is to salvage as many dry buffaloes as possible and this has been taken in hand on an extensive scale for the last 18 months. Steps have also been taken to prohibit the slaughter of calves throughout the Province which are likely to make useful draft and milch animal and also of cows and bullocks which are still serviceable for breeding purposes or as draught animals. The number of buffaloes allowed to be slaughtered at Bandra and Kurla slaughter houses, which usually receive dry buffaloes from Bombay has been restricted to only 225 buffaloes per week against 410 per week in the past.

7 A special order known as the Bombay She Cattle (Bovines) Licensing and Maintenance Order 1944 has also been promulgated in the City and suburbs since October 1944. Under this Order each cattle owner or stable keeper is required to obtain a licence to keep milch cattle and to report any variation in the number of his cattle to the Licensing Authority. Imports of fresh milch cattle are regulated by the issue of import permits against the quota allowed from the various provinces. Import permits are issued to the cattle owners after taking into consideration the number of their cattle going dry, number of cattle owners after them in the past and the number of salvaged cattle returned. One of the conditions for the grant of these import permits is that the imported animals shall not be sold for slaughter when they go dry but shall be salvaged.

8 *General details of salvage work*—Salvage of dry animals is being done by establishing salvage centres departmentally and through the agency of the Bombay Humanitarian League, with Government subsidy. A Government farm or centre has been opened at Palghar for about 300 cattle and another farm at Jamner (East Khandesh District) is expected to be started before December 1945. The Humanitarian League has organised its centres at Nal, Mehsana, Sidhpur and Patan in Baroda State (Chhapa in Palanpur State, Kanjri in Kaira District, Vianaum in Ahmedabad District and at Bhajpur and Ahbarg (Hosaba District). In addition the entire lot about 1,000 cattle organised by the League at Kalol in the Panch Mahals District is being continued under the supervision of the staff appointed by Government and a new centre will be started at Kedgaon in the Sholapur District for about 500 cattle and also under Government supervision.

9 Two distinct methods are adopted in dealing with salvage of cattle—

(i) *When salvaged in Government farms*—Suitable buffaloes or calves are selected through the assistance of an experienced Dalal (Broker) who is paid at the rate of Rs 5 per buffalo as his fees. The price is negotiated by the Dalal which works out at an average of Rs 250 per animal. Thereafter the animals are sent to the Veterinary College, Bombay for testing them for contagious abortion and if they are found to be free from it, they are branded on the horns and are taken over and reared at Government farm at Palghar 54 miles from Bombay.

10 The maintenance expenditure works out to about Rs 30 per animals per month and normally they have to be maintained for about 5 months before they calve again.

11 Immediately before or after calving the animals are brought back to Bombay where they are sold not necessarily to the previous owners through the same Dalal at an average of Rs 450 each. Approximately 250 acres of grazing land is attached to the farm at Palghar.

12 (ii) *When salvaged through the Bombay Humanitarian League*—To a small extent the League also follows the above method of purchasing, the animals outright and then selling them after they are freshened but generally speaking it takes animals as boarders for salvaging them. It has its own staff for selecting the animals and after they have been tested at the Veterinary College they are despatched to the various centres where the League has arranged with suitable private parties who will land to keep the animals. Sometimes they are distributed (one or two animals each) to a number of cultivators.

13 When the animals freshen they are brought back to Bombay and are handed over to their owners. The cost to the owners of maintaining their dry cattle at the salvage centre amounts to Rs 12 to Rs 15 per month per animal. All expenses on transport and supervision of the scheme through the League Staff, are shared between the League and Government. For deaths in the cattle, the proportion of which roughly works out to about 8 per cent the owner is entirely responsible. All the animals are suitably branded for identification.

14 For the salvage schemes through departmental farms and through private agencies, a sum of approximately Rs 8,00,000 has been provided during the current year. This also includes organisation in Bombay for the administration of the She Cattle (Bovines) Licensing and Maintenance Order and for regulating imports of fresh buffaloes for salvage. Since these measures were introduced over 36,000 dry cattle from the City and suburbs were sent for salvage including those by the cattle owners who have their own salvage arrangements. Out of these about 10,900 have been already received back upto 30th September 1945. At present over 4,200 animals are at the Government farms or with the League Centres and the remaining with agents of cattle owners.

15 The main lesson learnt so far is that if salvaging is to be successful having regard to the artificial conditions in which the animals are kept for the whole period of lactation prior to salvaging special feeding and care during the period of salvage are most essential. Cattle owners and others have an idea that salvaging should be done as cheaply as possible. The object seems to be just to keep the animal alive till she calves again. Although feeds are expensive the cost is kept down to Re 1 per day. The result is that a large number of animals are received back in rather poor condition and do not yield the expected quantity of milk after calving. These shortcomings are being looked into and it is hoped that in future the cost of salvaging would not be the only factor in judging the efficiency of the scheme.

16 *Calf Rearing Farm*—Government have also under active consideration the starting of a calf rearing farm near Bombay where about 1,000 buffalo calves taken over from the owners will be reared. There is a likelihood of obtaining good support and co-operation from the progressive section of the trade, in the operation of the scheme.

BOMBAY CASTLE, BOMBAY,
Dated 2nd November 1945

STOPPAGE OF EXPORT OF CATTLE

1114. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture kindly state.

(a) whether Government have accepted the principle of the recommendation of Mr Pepperall in respect of stoppage of export of cattle from areas where they can thrive and be reared best and exporting milk from these areas;

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, the steps Government have taken to implement the said recommendation; and

(c) if the answer be in the negative, the reasons for the non-acceptance of the said recommendation and why Government regard the scheme of salvage more feasible?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Mr Pepperall, in his report, stated that "it would be a far better arrangement for the Punjab to retain its cattle and arrange instead to send evaporated milk in tins to Bombay or Calcutta rather than export cattle that are usually slaughtered within a few months and replaced at great cost". This recommendation concerns primarily the Punjab Government and has not been accepted by the Government of India

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The recommendation cannot be accepted because (i) Government have no power now to restrict the export of cattle from one area to another, (ii) the manufacture of evaporated (condensed) milk on an extensive scale under Indian conditions is still in the experimental stage, (iii) the cost of such milk would be higher than that of ordinary milk and beyond the means of an average consumer; (iv) the restriction of the export of cattle even if permissible by law might be undesirable as adversely affecting the cattle breeding industry of the province, and (v) the slaughter of cattle can be prevented by salvage and the encouragement of the supply of milk to towns from nearby rural areas.

DEARTH OF *Bhusa* AND COTTON SEED IN PUNJAB

1115. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture kindly state whether Government are aware that there is great dearth of *Bhusa* (cattle fodder) as well as cotton seeds in the Punjab?

(b) Have Government taken any special steps to relieve the situation by securing priority of transport and reducing freights of these articles to the famine affected areas?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The Punjab had asked for the supply of 15,000 tons of cotton seed. Government have no information about that Province being deficit in *Bhusa*.

(b) The steps taken to ensure the supply of cattlefeeds in the country as a whole (primarily for the famine affected areas) are mentioned in my reply to question No. 784 asked by Mr. Paliwal on the 10th March 1947. In particular an allotment of 11,000 tons cotton seed was made to the Punjab. For movement by rail, cattlefeed and fodder are allowed Class I priority when sponsored by Government and Class II priority in other cases. The question of the reduction of freights is under consideration.

COMPULSORY CULTIVATION OF FODDER CROPS

1116. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture kindly state whether Government have received any communications from the Bombay Humanitarian League and the Gosewa Sangh and other associations for undertaking legislation to provide for compulsory cultivation of fodder crops on a certain percentage of the area of their holdings by the cultivators?

(b) If so, have Government considered the advisability of undertaking such legislation or recommending the enactment of such measures by the Provincial Governments?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not practicable or desirable for the Central Government to undertake such legislation.

PROPAGANDA IN CINEMAS FOR MANUFACTURERS OF VANASPATI

1117. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department kindly state what are the different ways in which Government help the manufacture of vanaspati (hydrogenated oil)?

(b) Do Government secure oil for the factories at controlled rates and secure priority of transport to the factories?

(c) Do Government make propaganda for the manufacturers of vanaspati in the cinemas and elsewhere?

(d) If so, what is the cost incurred by Government for such propaganda?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) Government assist the industry in procuring materials the sale or import of which is controlled.

(b) Factories purchase their own oil. Under the basic plan for oils, quotas for vanaspati were separately ear-marked and in some instances recommended for priority of movement. Now that control over edible oils and oilseeds has been withdrawn, such assistance is not given.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise.

ACTION OF BENGAL GOVERNMENT IN HOLDING UP CONSUMER GOODS IN TRANSIT TO ASSAM FROM OTHER PROVINCES

1118. *Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Secretary of Food Department please state whether Government are aware that mustard oil, coconut oil, groundnut oil, wheat, cloth, salt, dal, corrugated iron sheets and other consumer goods which are sent to Assam from Provinces other than Bengal are being held up in Calcutta and not allowed to be sent to Assam unless export permit is obtained from the Bengal Government?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, why and under what authority the Government of Bengal are doing so?

(c) In view of the extreme difficulties in getting supply of imported food stuffs and other essential goods in Assam, do Government propose to take early steps to see that goods booked from any Province to Assam is not interfered with, or stopped in transit by Bengal or any other intervening Province?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a), (b) and (c) No transit permits are required for the onward despatch of consumer goods, corrugated iron sheets, mustard and ground nut oils, wheat and dhalls from Calcutta to Assam, nor for cloth despatched to Assam in through wagons from the stations of despatch via Calcutta. If transshipment of cloth is made at Calcutta, necessary permits are issued by the Provincial Government. Permits are similarly issued for the coconut oil allocated to Assam by the Central Government out of the quantity imported into Bengal. A ban is in force on the export of salt from Calcutta; Assam has a quota of 5,000 tons of salt from Bengal and shortfalls in despatches to Assam have occurred due to shortfalls in arrivals of salt ships in Calcutta. No complaints have however, been received from the Government of Assam about the alleged interference by the Bengal Government.

CONSTRUCTION OF BROAD GAUGE RAILWAY LINE FROM PARBATIPUR TO GAUHATI

1119. *Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Bengal and Assam Railway line from Calcutta to Parbatipur is broad-gauge and that from Parbatipur to Assam is metre-gauge?

(b) Are Government aware that this change to Parbatipur from broad-gauge to metre-gauge is very inconvenient to the people of Assam, and causes a great deal of loss of time in the exportation of goods from Assam to Calcutta and other places and also causes damage to perishable commodities such as fruits, potatoes, etc., in the process of transportation?

(c) Have Government received a representation from the Government of Assam to construct a broad-gauge Railway line from Parbatipur to Gauhati? If so, what action, if any, has been taken with regard to that representation?

(d) What is the distance from Parbatipur to Bongaigaon on the Bengal and Assam Railway line and what will be the length of the projected railway line from Bongaigaon to Pandu, via Jogighopa and Goalpara?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware that passengers and goods have to be transhipped at Parbatipur due to change of gauge. In order to minimise delays and avoid damage in transit, investigations are in hand regarding the possibility of using 'containers' for transport of perishable goods such as fruits, potatoes, etc., from Assam to Calcutta.

(c) Government have recently received a representation for conversion of the existing metre gauge line from Parbatipur to Bongaigaon to broad gauge and constructing a broad gauge line from Bongaigaon to Pandu via Jogighopa and Goalpara. Government are not in a position to accept this proposal, as it would involve re-alignment, regrading and additional expenditure, which the construction of broad gauge entails. The metre gauge in Assam forms part of a larger metre gauge system which runs through the whole of Northern India and the conversion of Parbatipur-Bongaigaon section to broad gauge would create new transshipment stations at Kaunia, Teesta, Lalmanirhat, Gitaldah and Golakganj instead of a single transshipment at Parbatipur.

(d) The distance from Parbatipur to Bongaigaon is approximately 131 miles and the length of the projected railway line from Bongaigaon to Pandu will be approximately 114 miles.

(CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER BRAHMAPUTRA BETWEEN JOGIGHOPA AND GOALPARA.)

1120. *Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India propose to construct a railway bridge over the Brahmaputra between Jogighopa and Goalpara and a railway line from Bongaigaon to Gauhati passing over that bridge; if so, whether Government propose to make this new railway line a broad-gauge one;

(b) whether it is a fact that the survey for constructing the bridge over the Brahmaputra has been finished and that the Government of India have decided to construct the said bridge as soon as possible; if so, when they intend to start the work and whether it could be finished within two years,

(c) whether in constructing this bridge, Government propose to make a road also on the bridge for motor cars and pedestrians; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government of India asked the Government of Assam if they would agree to allot Rs. 75,000 for the combined bridge out of the money promised to them by the Central Government for Post-war Reconstruction?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes Sir, it is a fact that the Government have under consideration a proposal for a combined rail-road bridge across the River Brahmaputra at Jogighopa on a proposed line from Bongaigaon to Goalpara. In addition to the proposed line from Bongaigaon to Goalpara with a bridge at Jogighopa, the Government are also considering the prospects of a line from Singhjan to Pandu (Gauhati) via Goalpara. No decision has been

taken in either case, but if both the proposals materialise, Bongaigaon will be linked to Pandu (Gauhati) by a metre gauge line. Government do not propose to consider a broad gauge line, as not only will it be financially unjustified but it will also create additional transhipment points.

(b) Survey investigations for siting the bridge across the Brahmaputra are not yet complete. If and when it is decided to construct the bridge, it is anticipated it will take about four years to complete from the time the construction is taken in hand.

(c) Yes, the proposed bridge across the Brahmaputra at Jogighopa will be designed to carry both rail and road traffic.

(d) It is not a fact that the Assam Government have been asked to allot Rs. 75,000 towards the construction of the proposed combine rail-road bridge at Jogighopa. The fact is that the Assam Government were informed by the B. A. Railway in October 1946 that the bridge was estimated to cost Rs. 7.35 crores excluding approaches and that their share would be 88 per cent. of the total cost in accordance with the existing rules for apportionment of the cost of combined rail-road bridges.

EMPLOYMENT OF ASSAMESE IN THE TRAINING CENTRE AT KANCHRAPARA FOR TRAINING IN RAILWAY WORKS

1121. *Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India are going to start a big training centre at Kanchrapara (Bengal) for training people in railway works; and

(b) whether it is a fact that about 20,000 people will be employed in that centre, whether Government propose to employ people from Assam also, and if so, has any quota been fixed for Assam?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government are considering what steps are necessary to train the personnel who will be required to staff the new Locomotive Manufacturing plant at Kanchrapara, but the site of the training centre has not yet been decided.

(b) No. As regards the latter part, no separate quota for Assamese has been prescribed. In this connection, I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply to part (d) of Question No. 41 asked by Seth Govind Das on the 28th October, 1946.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF AND FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ALL-INDIA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, RESEARCH LABORATORY AND GREEN BELT IN DELHI PROVINCE

93. **Chandhri Sri Chand:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department please state whether Government propose to acquire the agricultural land of Mauzas Nang'oi Jat, Sultanpur, Magholpur Ka'an and Khurd, Puth Kalan, Rithala, Neharpur, Pitampura, Garhi Pira, Jawala-Heri and Madipur in Delhi Province for the establishment of All-India Agricultural College, Research Laboratory and Green Belt?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to provide work for about 25,000 people, who will be thrown out of work?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of acquiring land for the said purpose near Alipur village in Delhi Province, where most of the land belongs to Government or one or two big land lords?

(d) Is not sufficient land available for this purpose on the Muttra Road?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) In August last it was decided to acquire 2,770 acres of land near Shakur Basti on the Rohtak Road for colleges for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, for the Dairy Institute and other institutions. This has nothing to do with the Green Belt Scheme. As a result; however, of representations made by the villagers and cultivators of this area the question of acquiring alternative sites is at present under consideration.

(b) The approximate number of peasant proprietors and tenants affected by the proposed acquisition is about 2,000 and not 25,000. Most of them would probably be absorbed in work at the colleges and institutes.

(c) The Government land at Alipur is only about 80 acres and it is not considered advisable to acquire the land in and near the village.

(d) The original site selected for the Dairy Institute in 1939 was at Kilokri near the Muttra Road but it is now considered that the use of this land for such institutes is likely to hinder the proper expansion of New Delhi as this is the only direction in which New Delhi can conveniently expand.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following message has been received from the Council of State:—

“The Council of State at its meeting held on the 20th March, 1947, agreed without any amendment to the following Bills, which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on Wednesday, the 5th March, 1947, namely —

1. A Bill to enable duties in connection with vital services to be imposed in an emergency on the Armed Forces of the Crown.
2. A Bill to provide for the continuance of certain provisions of the Defence of India Rules relating to the control of trading with States, and persons and firms belonging to States at war with His Majesty, and the custody of the property belonging to them.”

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Masarrat Hussain Zuberi (Government of India: Nominated Official) Sir, I move:

“That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct five non-official members to advise on subjects dealt with in the Department of Communications during the year 1947-48.”

Mr. President: The question is—

“That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct five non-official members to advise on subjects dealt with in the Department of Communications during the year 1947-48.”

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election by means of the single transferable vote of five members to the Standing Committee for the Department of Communications the programme of dates will be as follows—

1. Nominations to be filed in the Notice Office up to 12 Noon on Monday, the 24th March.
2. Election, if necessary, will be held on Thursday, the 27th March in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA RENT CONTROL BILL

Mr. President: Further consideration of the motion that the Bill to make better provision for the control of rents in certain areas in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Leader of the House): May I with your permission, Sir, suggest that the House do sit today till 6 p.m. in order, if possible, to complete the consideration of the Bill. This Bill has got to be got through. Tomorrow the House is not sitting. There is another very important urgent measure before the House and so I trust the House will agree to sit today till 6 p.m. and finish the consideration of this Bill.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Can we have an idea, from the Honourable the Leader of the House, of the programme of work for next week?

Mr. President: There are two more important Bills, the Shipping Bill and the Bill for the continuance of control over Capital Issues and thereafter there is the Finance Bill. That is the order in which the Bills are set down on the agenda.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): We were given to understand that these Bills would be postponed by Government and that we will have the Finance Bill on Monday morning.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will be able to get an idea as to when the Finance Bill will come in, if we know the progress of the Rent Control Bill in the course of this afternoon.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The Honourable the Leader of the House said that we should finish the present Bill, that is the Rent Control Bill by 6 p.m. What about the other two Bills? Does he want the House to finish those two also today?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: If possible, certainly.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: If those two Bills also are to be finished before we take up the Finance Bill, then we shall certainly never be able to take up the Finance Bill at all.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We are taking up the Finance Bill in any case next week on Monday. That is the idea.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Whatever happens today?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European): It would be helpful to know the intention of Government quite clearly. Supposing the two Bills, the Shipping Bill and the Capital Issues Bill are still pending this evening will the Finance Bill come up on Monday?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The thing is clear to me, but do not hold any position to answer with regard to the urgency or otherwise of the Shipping Bill. It all rests with the Department concerned. Normally speaking we should proceed with the Finance Bill next week.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Even if the Shipping Bill is not disposed of, will the Finance Bill be taken up, in any case next week?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I must consult the Honourable Member in charge of the Shipping Bill. I do not exactly know what the position is.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bengal European): We were given to understand that the Shipping Bill will go to the Select Committee. I presume if that is the case, then perhaps the Finance Bill might come up next week.

Mr. President: The order in which the Bills will be taken up depends upon the urgency of the Bills. I would suggest a slight amendment to what the Honourable the Leader of the House suggested. He used the expression, "if

[Mr. President.]

possible be finished today'. I would request the House to make a determined effort to finish the Rent Control Bill by 5 p.m. and if necessary to sit as long as may be necessary to finish the Bill. That would leave the line clear for Finance Bill next week.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I entirely agree.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North West Frontier Province: General): Why can't we sit tomorrow, instead of sitting late today?

Mr. President: That is not possible. Now, as regards the various amendments, I will suggest that all the amendments dealing with the same point in a particular clause may be moved and discussed together, and the Government might give a consolidated reply, so that we will be avoiding a lot of repetition of the same arguments, introductory remarks to each amendment will then be avoided and then we shall be able to finish the Bill before the time target that we have fixed today.

Mr. President: Clause 5:

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the word 'landlord' occurring in the second line, the following be inserted, namely—

'or a tenant sub-letting a part of the premises let' " and

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the word 'tenant', occurring in the second line, the words 'or a sub-tenant' be inserted."

Mr. President: Amendments moved:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the word 'landlord' occurring in the second line, the following be inserted, namely—

'or a tenant sub-letting a part of the premises let' " and

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the word 'tenant', occurring in the second line, the words 'or a sub-tenant' be inserted."

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer-Merwara: General): Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the word 'landlord', occurring in line 2, the words 'or the tenant or any person acting or purporting to act on behalf of the tenant' be inserted", and

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the word 'tenancy' the words 'or sub-tenancy' be inserted."

Mr. President: Amendments moved:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the word 'landlord', occurring in line 2, the words 'or the tenant or any person acting or purporting to act on behalf of the tenant' be inserted", and

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the word 'tenancy' the words 'or sub-tenancy' be inserted."

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Sir, the purpose of my amendments will not be disputed by any one; the only question is whether or not they are necessary. The Honourable Member in charge told us yesterday that although the word—"sub-tenant" is not defined in this Bill and although it is not clear whether a tenant who sublets a part of his tenancy will be considered a landlord in respect of the sub-tenant, yet the present definition of the words "landlord" and "tenant" will cover all these contingencies. That may be so; one cannot be dogmatic on a point of law. But I feel very unhappy that these things are being left vague like this. Had it been only a question of civil liability there would perhaps be no harm in leaving it vague like that. But here the question of criminal liability also comes in. These persons who accept any fine, premium or advance illegally will not only be liable for damages or subjected to any other civil liability but will also be criminally liable. Now if the definition is left vague and the whole thing is not made clear by amendments such as I have suggested, I am very doubtful whether any criminal court will convict any one guilty of acts

like those in the present condition of vagueness of the law. I therefore think that whatever may be the comprehensiveness of the definition of "landlord" and "tenant", as claimed by the Honourable Member in charge, it is only common sense that in this clause at least the position should be made absolutely clear. The clause says:

"It shall not be lawful for the landlord or any person acting or purporting to act on behalf of the landlord, to claim . . . any fine, premium, advance or other like sum" etc., *save and except the standard rent.*

Now what about the tenant who has sublet a part of his tenancy or who wants to sublet a part of his tenancy with the consent of the landlord after the passing of this measure? Can he accept any premium or advance or any other money as stated in this clause? Certainly the intention is that no one should be in a position to accept or claim such illegal money. But if the clause is left as it stands now I am extremely doubtful whether the tenant or sub-tenant who takes such money will be criminally liable. Even if he is civilly liable I am doubtful if any criminal court will convict him. So I think this amendment is very necessary.

Similarly in my second amendment dealing with sub-clause (2) I propose that after the word "tenant" in the second line the words "or a sub-tenant" be inserted. This sub-clause says:

"It shall not be lawful for the tenant, or any person acting or purporting to act on behalf of the tenant, to claim or receive any payment in consideration of his relinquishment of his tenancy of any premises."

Now if a sub-tenant refuses to vacate unless he is given a bribe will he be liable? If the clause is left vague like this he will certainly not be convicted by a criminal court. I therefore think that these necessary amendments should be accepted by the House.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Sir, the amendments that I have proposed are self-explanatory and need no elucidation. Clause 5 lays down that no person acting on behalf of the landlord will be allowed to accept anything over and above the standard rent in any shape or form. My amendment includes not only the landlord but the tenant also who will be prohibited from claiming anything from the sub-tenant over and above the standard rent. I think this point cannot be disputed and no argument is necessary, because the clause does not cover the case of the tenant and sub-tenant.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale (Government of India Nominated Official). Sir, the first amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Tamizuddin Khan and the first amendment moved by my Honourable friend Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava are practically the same. I am prepared to accept the latter one and I hope that Mr. Tamizuddin Khan will withdraw his amendment. The latter is a slightly different version as suggested by the Legislative Department.

As regards the second amendment moved by Mr. Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, I am prepared to accept it. The second amendment moved by Mr. Tamizuddin Khan is not I think necessary because the word "tenant" includes a sub-tenant. But as we have introduced the word "sub-tenant" in sub-clause (1) I do not see any great objection to introducing it in sub-clause (2). So I am prepared to accept that amendment.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my first amendment.

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the word 'landlord' occurring in line 2, the words 'or the tenant or any person acting or purporting to act on behalf of the tenant' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the word 'tenancy' the words 'or sub-tenancy' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is.

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the word 'tenant' occurring in the second line, the words 'or a sub-tenant' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is

"That clause 5 as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 6, 7 and 8 were added to the Bill

Mr. Tamsuddin Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the word 'not' in line 1 be omitted"

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the word 'not' in line 1 be omitted"

I believe the Honourable Member accepts it.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir. It is purely a printing mistake

Mr. President: The question is

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the word 'not' in line 1 be omitted"

The motion was adopted

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, I beg to move

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, after the word 'landlord' the following be added, namely

"or fails to pay in court such arrears of rent as directed by the Court"

Sir, I do not wish to say much on this amendment because I am equally anxious that this Bill should get through as early as possible. I would however like to say a word on this. If our idea is to accommodate as many tenants as possible and to provide more space for people to live, then we should provide every facility for the tenant who knows his duty and is willing to pay the rent. I have no sympathy for those tenants who do not want to pay rents regularly. But so often it happens that in the case of tenants who happen to be illiterate, and tenants who cannot understand the implication of going to the court and so on, may not pay the rent even when the notice has been received. In that case I propose that a tenant who pays the arrears of rent together with the costs of the suit should not be evicted. I hope the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill will accept this simple amendment and give relief to the genuine tenants who are willing to pay the rent.

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, after the word 'landlord', the following be added, namely.

"or fails to pay in court such arrears of rent as directed by the Court."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: May I suggest that there is another amendment on this very same point by Khan Abdul Ghani Khan. The principle is the same but the wording is slightly different, and I am prepared to accept the amendment of Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan.

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member see the subsequent amendment—supplementary list No. 2, item No. 6—and say if that meets her point?

Miss Maniben Kara: I have no objection in withdrawing my amendment so long as the idea of the amendment has been accepted. The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Sir, I move.

"That to part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following proviso be added, namely:

'Provided that no eviction shall be ordered under this clause if the tenant pays in court on the first day of hearing such arrears of rent together with the costs of the suit' "

May I say a word on this amendment?

Mr. President: Government are accepting it I will put it to the House.

The question is:

"That to part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following proviso be added, namely:

'Provided that no eviction shall be ordered under this clause if the tenant pays in court on the first day of hearing such arrears of rent together with the costs of the suit' "

The motion was adopted.

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the words 'whether before or', be omitted "

Since all the members of this House are one with me to avoid evictions in the case of genuine and honest rent-payers, I would request that the words 'whether before or', which unfortunately empower the landlord to evict a tenant for his past doings, may be deleted. If I have properly understood the clause, the landlord may evict those tenants who have sublet a part of their house before this Act comes into operation. My anxiety is that those tenants who have already sublet a part of their houses to sub-tenants should not suffer because of this clause for whatever they may have done in the past. When this Bill legalizes sub-tenancy, it will not be fair that we should victimize those people who were sub-tenants in the past. I would therefore request the Honourable Member Mr. Gokhale, to explain to me whether by passing clause 9 without my amendment those people who are sub-tenants will not suffer. If I am satisfied on that point, I will ask for leave of the House to withdraw my amendment. But if the interpretation of the clause, as it stands, is that a person who is a sub-tenant of the tenant will be thrown out of his house, then certainly I would request the House to give protection to those people who are already staying as sub-tenants, and not render them homeless. I know that as soon as this Bill is passed there will be landlords too anxious to throw out sub-tenants under the protection of this Bill which provides for eviction against those tenants who rented their part of the house to other people, against then existing law. This is a very serious thing. After all, in this Bill, my friend Mr. Gokhale had in his opening speech and in the middle of the debate assured this House that he has no intention by the passage of this Bill to impose any hardship on the tenants. I am sure, everyone will agree with me that if the clause is kept as it is, hundreds of tenants will suffer. Owing to the scarcity of accommodation, number of people are to-day sub-tenants of the tenants. It may also happen that those tenants who have sublet their houses to sub-tenants will be only too glad to evict their present sub-tenant, so that they can bring in new tenants and get fresh *pugree* or *salami* plus extra 25 per cent. rent. I would appeal to all the members and the Member in charge of the Bill to see that this Bill does not undo anything which has been done in the past. When we are legislating let us legislate for a thing that is going to happen from now on. I can understand if all the clauses of the Bill were to the effect that we were going to undo all that happened in the past. But my Honourable friend, Mr. Gokhale, has pointed out that the effect of the various clauses of the Bill will be for future use. I therefore hope that the Members will support this amendment and also that the Member in charge of the Bill will accept it.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the words 'whether before or' be omitted."

May I know what the Honourable the Secretary's reactions are to this? I might suggest if the principle enunciated by the Honourable the Mover is acceptable to the Honourable Member, he might as well consider whether, instead of deleting the words altogether he may not say, "before such and such date" which should be the date of the publication of this Bill; so that there may be no scope for litigation in respect of alleged transactions in the intervening periods

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: There is a large number of amendments on this point by various other members and it becomes difficult to deal with each one individually.

Mr. President: I am prepared to have all those amendments and they will be discussed together

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I think it better if that is done.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: The Honourable Member can give us an idea as to what amendment he is going to accept.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The general idea is that sub-letting in part, whether for residential purposes or for business purposes should be validated and should not be a ground for eviction up to the date on which this Bill is passed.

Mr. President: Passed or published?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The date when it is finally published in the Gazette

Mr. President: The Bill is published a month or fifteen days before it may be regularly passed a few days after

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I mean when it actually comes into force. Any sub-letting for business or residence should be validated up to that date. No sub-letting for residence or business purposes after that date, without the consent of the landlord, should be validated. That is the general idea of sub-letting. Now this applies to sub-letting of part premises. But where it is a question of sub-letting of the entire premises, which is really in the nature of a transfer of the entire tenancy, whether for business or residential purposes, the idea is that that should be a ground for eviction whether it happened before the passing of this Act or after the passing of this Act

There is a third class of cases

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Eviction of whom?

Mr. President: Eviction of the actual occupier

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The third class is where the tenant has used the residence for purposes other than for which they were let; there also, whether it happened before or after the passing of the Act, the tenant should be liable for eviction. That is the general idea of the discussions, we have had so far. The amendments which will give effect to these ideas, Sir, are Numbers 19 of the consolidated list and 7 of list 2. Those two together give effect to what I have just stated

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is going to accept these two and not the others?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I ask the Honourable Member one question. In case where the premises have been wholly sub-let, the idea is to evict the sub-tenant. But what will be the position of the actual tenant? Will the tenancy between the landlord and the original tenant be automatically ended?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Both will be evicted.

Mr. President: May I know whether the Honourable Member now wishes to withdraw her amendment or shall I put it to the House?

Miss Maniben Kara: I would like it to be put to the House.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the words 'whether before or', be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta (Delhi: General): Sir, I move:

"That part (b) (iii) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted."

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is accepting it?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That part (b) (iii) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, I move:

"That in part (c) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the words 'the premises having been let for use as a residence' be omitted."

Mr. President: The Honourable Member accepts it?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in part (c) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the words 'the premises having been let for use as a residence' be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Tamsuddin Khan: I move:

"That part (d) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted."

Shall I also move No. 20 as it is an alternative amendment. If this is not accepted, then I shall move that

Mr. President: He may move it at the same time.

Mr. Tamsuddin Khan: Sir, I move

"That in part (d) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, for the words 'neither the tenant nor any member of his family has been residing' the following be substituted, namely

"either the tenant, any member of his family or an agent of the tenant has not been residing."

Sir, so far as my first amendment No. 19 is concerned, I propose in that amendment that part (d) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted. This is one of the contingencies under which a tenant may be evicted by the landlord. This does not seem to me to be a very necessary condition. If this item is omitted, I do not think that the landlord will be at all placed in a difficulty. Here there is no question of non-payment of rent. If a tenant goes on paying the rent but simply for some reason he cannot be in occupation of the holding for more than six months, he will be liable to be evicted. This will be rather too harsh on the tenant. He may be ill for a long time and lying somewhere else but it may be very necessary that he should not give up his tenancy: yet he will be evicted, although he is willing to pay the rent. This is too harsh on him. I think this amendment may be accepted by the Government but if it is not accepted, I would like the Government to consider the other one, because that makes the hardship on the tenant a little less stringent. In this clause, if the tenant does not live there or a member of his family does not live there, he will be evicted but I propose that if the tenant himself or a member of his family cannot live there for some reason but there is a servant of the tenant or one of his agents is there, that should be a sufficient ground for not evicting the tenant for absence from the tenancy. I hope that one of these two amendments will be accepted by the Government.

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

'That part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted.'

Amendment moved.

'That in part (d) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, for the words 'neither the tenant nor any member of his family has been residing' the following be substituted, namely:

'either the tenant, any member of his family or an agent of the tenant has not been residing'."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I am afraid I am not in a position to accept either of the two amendments. In fact I think we have already gone far in suggesting that where a tenant or any member of his family has been residing for a period of six months, there shall be no eviction. We cannot extend this principle to servants or agents of the tenants. It is not so much a question of rights as a question of paucity of accommodation. If a man has been compelled to live away from Delhi for six months at a stretch, it is much better that he should quit Delhi and not lock up premises here unnecessarily and put other people into difficulties. Sir, I cannot accept either of the amendments.

Mr. President: The question is.

"That part (d) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in part (d) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, for the words 'neither the tenant nor any member of his family has been residing' the following be substituted, namely:

'either the tenant, any member of his family or an agent of the tenant has not been residing'."

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Quarter Past Two of the Clock,
Mr. President (the Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar in the Chair)

Mr. President: The House was proceeding with clause 9 of the Rent Control Bill.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: I beg to move.

"That in part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill after the word 'landlord' the words 'who is the owner of such premises' be inserted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I accept the amendment.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill after the word 'landlord' the words 'who is the owner of such premises' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: I beg to move.

"That in part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, for the word 'the', occurring for the first time in line 1, the words 'purely residential' be substituted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I accept the amendment.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, for the word 'the', occurring for the first time in line 1, the words 'purely residential' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: I beg to move:—

"That in part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, for the words 'is unable' the words 'neither has nor is able' be substituted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I accept it, Sir.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That in part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, for the words 'is unable' the words 'neither has nor is able' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): I beg to move:

"That in part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, for the words and figures '1st day of January, 1943', wherever they occur, the words and figures '2nd day of June, 1944' be substituted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I accept it, Sir.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That in part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, for the words and figures '1st day of January, 1943', wherever they occur, the words and figures '2nd day of June, 1944' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Miss Maniben Kara: In view of the fact that one of the amendments moved by my friend has been accepted by Mr. Gokhale, I shall only move the latter portion of the amendment. Sir, I move:

"That to part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following proviso be added, namely—

"Provided:

- (a) that the landlord has rendered himself homeless by his own action either by disposing of or voluntary vacation of his existing residence; and
- (b) that the landlord desires a change of surroundings only."

From the fact that a number of amendments to this particular clause has been moved, it is clear that most of the members of the House are against eviction as a rule and my amendment only provides further safeguards. If the landlord has rendered himself homeless by his own action, I submit that the tenant should not be rendered homeless. I will give an example. Many times it may happen that a landlord may stay in one place and may want to go to a better place like New Delhi in order to help his friends to get the possession of the place where he is staying. He may want to oblige his friend, as a result of getting some *salami*. There may be various other reasons why a landlord may want to vacate his own place where he was residing and to go to another place which he may own. It is not enough to say that the landlord wants the place for himself, as Mr. Sanyal said. The fact remains that by his action the tenant will be turned out to the footpath. I am not one of those who want the Government or the State to intervene at every stage between the landlord and the tenant. I agree that sufficient care should be taken to see that in a genuine case where the landlord wants the place for himself and he has absolutely no place to go to, the tenant may be asked to go. My amendment says that if the landlord either in order to get *salami* or for other reasons such as obliging his friends wants to evict his tenants, that will not be right, and members of this House should see that we provide a minimum necessity of life, that is shelter, for these people and that people are not thrown out without any hope. I would therefore request that this amendment may be accepted.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That to part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following proviso be added, namely:

"Provided:

- (a) that the landlord has rendered himself homeless by his own action either by disposing of or voluntary vacation of his existing residence; and
- (b) that the landlord desires a change of surroundings only."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, the wording of the amendment, as actually moved, does not fit in with the clause at all because my friend omitted certain words which might have made the whole thing intelligible

Miss Maniben Kara: You can change that.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I am not laying much stress on that. I am only mentioning it incidentally. Apart from that, however, although I am to a large extent in sympathy with the object underlying the Honourable Member's amendment, there are so many considerations involved before eviction can be ordered, that it is difficult to lay down hard and fast rules. The Honourable Member has drawn attention to two possible cases. There are a number of other hard cases likely to arise. Mr. Ghani Khan's amendment, which was not moved, refers to as many as six cases in which it would be a hardship if the tenants were evicted. It would be better to have a general clause which will cover all such cases. In this connection, I am prepared to accept Amendment No. 11 in Supplementary List No. 2 in the name of Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, which reads as follows:

That to sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following new proviso be added at the end, namely:—

"Provided that no decree for eviction shall be passed on the grounds set forth in clauses (e) and (h) unless the Court is satisfied after taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration that it is reasonable to allow such eviction

That covers all cases that may possibly arise and I feel that my friend should be satisfied with this amendment.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I intervene? The amendment of Mr. Gupta is certainly good in its own way. I want to point out this fact. It refers only to those facts which relate to the convenience and suitability of the landlord. Does not this phraseology, as it stands, exclude the taking into consideration of the convenience and distress of the tenant also? So, in that case, has he considered the question of just a little redrafting, so that the extreme distress of the tenant, namely, that he is going to be thrown to the foot-path, be also avoided?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The wording here is

"Unless the Court is satisfied after taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration that it is reasonable to allow such eviction."

It does not matter whether the facts and circumstances are put before the Court by the landlord or by the tenant.

Mr. President: What does the Honourable Member wish me to do now?

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, I would like my amendment to be put to the House.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That to part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following proviso be added, namely:

'Provided:

(a) that the landlord has rendered himself homeless by his own action either by disposing of or voluntary vacation of his existing residence; and

(b) that the landlord desires a change of surroundings only'."

The motion was negatived.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Sir, I move:

"That after part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following new part be inserted and, the subsequent parts be re-lettered accordingly:

'(f) that the tenant, after the commencement of this Act, has built, acquired or been allotted a suitable residence';"

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That after part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following new part be inserted and the subsequent parts be re-lettered accordingly:

'(f) that the tenant, after the commencement of this Act, has built, acquired or been allotted a suitable residence'."

Lala Deashbandhu Gupta: Sir, a verbal change is needed in this amendment, which seems to have been left out in typing. The words 'vacant possession of' should be added after the word 'acquired'.

Mr. President: That is Mr. Saksena's amendment to which the Honourable Member is referring.

Lala Deashbandhu Gupta: As the object is the same, Pandit Bhargava's amendment may be altered accordingly.

Mr. President: Both the amendments seem to be identical except those words to which the Honourable Member has referred. If the amendment of Mr. Saksena is acceptable to the Government and if that is going to be moved, Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava may as well consider whether he should move his amendment at all.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadian Urban): I may also draw your attention, Sir, to the fact that a similar amendment stands in my name also, namely No. 36 on the Consolidated List. I think that will serve the purpose and the Government should have no objection to it. I think it will be better if my amendment is taken in preference to Mr. Saksena's amendment.

Mr. President: If the Honourable Member so desires, I will have all the three amendments moved. Pandit Bhargava has already moved his amendment.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, I move:

"That after part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following new part be inserted and the subsequent parts be re-lettered accordingly:

'(f) that the tenant after the commencement of this Act has built, acquired vacant possession of or been allotted a suitable residence; or'."

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That after part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following new part be inserted and the subsequent parts be re-lettered accordingly:

'(f) that the tenant after the commencement of this Act has built, acquired vacant possession of or been allotted a suitable residence; or'."

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Sir, I move:

"That after part (f) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following new part be inserted and the subsequent parts be re-lettered accordingly:

'(g) that the tenant, since the 2nd day of September 1939, has built a residential house or has acquired, purchased or been allotted by the Government a vacant house;'"

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That after part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following new part be inserted and the subsequent parts be re-lettered accordingly:

'(g) that the tenant, since the 2nd day of September 1939, has built a residential house or has acquired, purchased or been allotted by the Government a vacant house;'"

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I am willing to accept the amendment moved by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Sir, I beg to withdraw my amendment. The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Sir, I beg to withdraw my amendment. The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. President: I will now put the amendment of Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena. The question is:

"That after part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following new part be inserted and the subsequent parts be re-lettered accordingly:

'(f) that the tenant after the commencement of this Act has built, acquired vacant possession of or been allotted a suitable residence; or'."

The motion was adopted.

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, I move:

"That after the proviso to sub-clause (1) of Clause 9 of the Bill, the following new proviso be added, namely:

'Provided that after the completion of the necessary repairs or rebuilding the tenant evicted under this clause shall have the first preference for occupation of the premises'."

Sir, Clause 9(1)(i) says:

"that the landlord requires the premises in order to carry out any building work—

(i) at the instance of the Government or the Delhi Improvement Trust in pursuance of an improvement scheme or development scheme, or

(ii) because the premises have become unsafe or unfit for human habitation "

Sir, if a tenant is to be evicted under these circumstances where certain repairs have to be carried out, certainly no one can be against the safety of the persons residing. A tenant under such conditions, for the time being, may go to a friend's house, or may go to relative's house for a short time. Is it not right that we should allow him to come back to his own place after the necessary repairs are done? I would appeal to the House to accept my amendment. The fact is that in these hard times if people are compelled to leave their houses, they will have absolutely no other place to go to, since all families are overcrowded, not only by relatives but by friends who come to Delhi. It is likely that a tenant's house might require some repairs. The repair may take a couple of months time or even six months, and even in six months, it may not be possible to get any house on rent in Delhi. But when the safety of the house and life are at stake, then the tenants have no other alternative but to vacate the house for necessary repairs or reconstruction. They must get out of the place and give vacant possession to the landlord. In that event, under the joint family system which still exists in India today, the tenants may get shelter either at some relatives house, or in some friend's house, or in their father-in-law's house for some time. But if those friends or relatives did not have the assurance that after a couple of months when the house will be repaired, and their friends will return to their own homes, even with the best of intentions in the world, those friends or relatives would be reluctant to give any shelter to such people. This is a genuine difficulty that I have mentioned. I would therefore request the Honourable Member to accept this amendment.

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

"That after the proviso to sub-clause (1) of Clause 9 of the Bill, the following new proviso be added, namely:

1. that after the completion of the necessary repairs or rebuilding the tenant evicted under this clause shall have the first preference for occupation of the premises' "

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, in the sub-clause as it stands, I do not see any word 'repair'. The expression used is 'any building work' for which the premises have to be vacated. There is no question of repairs. The premises will have to be vacated by tenants only if they are necessary for rebuilding purposes. Now, Sir, rebuilding may take six months or eight months or even a year. It may take any length of time. Although I must confess I have some sympathy with the object of the amendment, I feel that after the tenant has made his own arrangements for those six months or even a year, it is better not to complicate matters by bringing him back again and giving him first preference. If we make provision for so many exceptions—I referred to this earlier when the Bill was under discussion—if we make provision for every exception, then I am afraid the Bill will become encyclopaedic, it will become very complicated, and we may not be able to know what will be the consequential amendments that might be required. I am not in a position to accept this amendment.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That after the proviso to sub-clause (1) of Clause 9 of the Bill, the following new Proviso be added, namely:

'Provided that after the completion of the necessary repairs or rebuilding the tenant evicted under this clause shall have the first preference for occupation of the premises'."

The motion was negatived.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, I move:

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, before the existing proviso, the following new proviso be inserted, namely:

'Provided that no decree for eviction shall be passed on the grounds set forth in clauses (e) and (i) unless the court is satisfied after taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration that it is reasonable to allow such eviction';"

and

"That in the existing proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill between the words 'Provided' and 'that' the word 'further' be inserted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I accept the amendment.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That to sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, before the existing proviso, the following new proviso be inserted, namely:

'Provided that no decree for eviction shall be passed on the grounds set forth in clauses (e) and (i) unless the court is satisfied after taking all the facts and circumstances into consideration that it is reasonable to allow such eviction';"

and

"That in the existing proviso to sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill between the words 'Provided' and 'that' the word 'further' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, I move:

"That sub-clause (4) of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I accept the amendment.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That sub-clause (4) of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That clause 9 as amended, stand part of the Bill "

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 10 and 11 were added to the Bill.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 12 of the Bill, the words 'Notwithstanding anything contained in any contract' be omitted, and the following be added at the end, namely:

'except in cases where the tenant has undertaken by agreement to keep the premises in repair'."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 12 of the Bill, the words 'Notwithstanding anything contained in any contract' be omitted, and the following be added at the end, namely:

'except in cases where the tenant has undertaken by agreement to keep the premises in repair'."

The motion was adopted.

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, I move:

"That in the Proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 12 of the Bill, for the word 'Twelfth' the word 'Sixth' be substituted."

[Miss Maniben Kara.]

I am sorry that the last amendment of Lala Deshbandhu Gupta has now been passed with which I disagree. This new clause for repairs has come as an improvement because it will act as a threat to the landlord. We have allowed the landlord to charge extra rent, but at the same time we expect that they will do their duty by the tenants and effect necessary repairs. I do not think it is necessary that there should be any previous agreement before a tenant can carry out the much wanted repairs in his house if the landlord has failed, because that is part of the whole contract. As a matter of fact the clause as it stood would have meant some serious threat to the landlord. If the landlord did not carry out the repairs, the tenant would take the initiative and carry on with the repairs and charge the landlord to the extent of one month in a year as the Bill provides. Now, Sir, my point is that the landlord is allowed under the income-tax rules two months in a year as exemption for repairs to his property. Even then, they argue that two months' exemption is not enough, because the cost of repairs is now high, materials are not available and they have to go to the black market, etc., for repairs. But when the tenant carries out repairs, he is given by this Bill only one month's rent. Even if we judge the landlord and tenant equally in regard to their spending capacity, it will not be justice to allow the tenant only one month's rent for carrying out repairs. The landlord if he carries out repairs is allowed two months' rent, not under this Bill but under the income-tax rules.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it for the purpose of income-tax or for the purpose of realisation from the tenants?

Miss Maniben Kara: It is under income-tax rule that they are allowed 2 months' rent for repairs. I am interested in finding out the cost of repairs. I have cited this to show what cost the tenant will have to incur for carrying out repairs. Now, Sir, every one knows that at present the buildings do not receive any attention from the landlords and are in a very bad condition. Even absolute necessities from the hygienic point of view like flush, water, etc., are not attended to by landlords under the pretext that materials are not available; the landlords are annoyed because of rent control, and because the tenants have been there for many years without paying extra rent. They feel that if they inconvenience the tenants somehow or other they, may go out of the place. I know many cases where electricity is cut, electric connection is not given, and tenants are subjected to various other hardships by the landlords to provoke them to vacate houses. The tenant is not anxious to undertake repairs; it is up to the landlords to look after his property. Only when the landlord fails to do his duty in this respect, the tenant will be compelled to undertake repairs. I, therefore, suggest that the tenant should be allowed not one month's but two months' rent for repairs and I hope my amendment will be accepted.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in the proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 12 of the Bill, for the word 'Twelfth' the word 'Sixth' be substituted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I believe that the P W D do not spend more than about 8 per cent. on annual repairs which is roughly about 1/12th, and therefore I feel that one month is quite enough. This is after all an exceptional provision. Ordinarily we do expect that landlords will keep houses in repairs. It is only when they do not, that we are proposing that the tenant should be able to do the minimum essential repairs; and for that I think one month's rent will be adequate. I am sorry I cannot accept the amendment.

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, I do not wish to press this amendment.

Mr. President: I wish to point out that one-sixth or one-tenth would include very probably the cost of collection also. So there was an additional charge. However, the Honourable Member wishes to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That clause 12 as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Tamsuddin Khan: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 13 of the Bill, for the words 'three months' the words 'six months' be substituted."

I am told that the evil of realising *pugree* and in the case of certain tenants the practice of not vacating without being bribed has become very prevalent in Delhi. If that is so, I think that the punishment provided—simple imprisonment for 3 months—will not act as a deterrent. In this country, unfortunately, for unsocial acts our Courts award very lenient punishment. Sometimes the provision of the law are at fault; at other times the Courts do not realize the gravity of the situation. I think that although the Courts may still persist in that habit and more enhancement of the punishment awardable in law may not influence the courts, but still I think that a provision of six months' imprisonment may act as a deterrent. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 13 of the Bill, for the words 'three months' the words 'six months' be substituted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, the original provision was for a fine of Rs. 1,000 and six months imprisonment. The Select Committee considered this at great length and decided that where a landlord has realized say Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 10,000 as *pugree* it would be quite inadequate to fine him Rs. 1,000, and therefore the provision has now been amended to enable the Court to realize the entire amount of *pugree* and a fine of Rs. 1,000, in addition. So if Rs. 20,000 has been charged as *pugree*, the Court can now impose a fine of Rs. 21,000. That is a substantial punishment. When we come to the question of imprisonment, it is really in the nature of a stigma for an unsocial act; it is not a question of 3 months, or 6 months, but even 1 month's or for the matter of that even one day's imprisonment will be quite enough as a stigma. What we propose to do is to realize the whole amount of *pugree* plus Rs. 1,000 and also imprison for 3 months for committing the unsocial act. I think, Sir, that 3 months is quite enough for the needs of the situation, and I oppose the amendment.

Shri Sri Prakash: How do you know how much *pugree* has been paid?

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 13 of the Bill, for the words 'three months' the words 'six months' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That clause 13 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President: Clause 14.—There are two amendments by Messrs. Sanyal and Tamsuddin. They are negatives of the original, and Honourable Members can oppose the clause. Miss Maniben Kara.

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, I move.

"That in clause 14 of the Bill, the following new sub-clause be inserted as sub-clause (1) and the existing clause be re-numbered as sub-clause (2) :

'(1) All suits for eviction of tenants under this Act may be determined by any Court which would have ordinarily jurisdiction to hear and decide a suit for eviction of a tenant from the premises in respect of which the question arises.'"

This is a very important amendment. In the original Bill this clause was not there. All cases of disputes were referred to Civil Courts, but the Select Committee has changed this clause. Their anxiety is that there should be no delay in deciding the disputes between landlords and tenants. While appreciating this anxiety, I wish to point out that by bringing cases of eviction before a Small Causes Court, the tenants will be put to a very great disadvantage. In these Courts the proceedings are summary. The tenants cannot bring forward witnesses, evidences are not recorded and it will be on rare occasions when the decision of such courts will be in favour of the tenants. I feel, Sir, that eviction clause is the most important and vital clause of the Bill and we should afford every possible facility to both the parties to bring forward their case before a Civil Court. I share the anxiety of my friends that other disputes should be decided as early as possible and may be referred to the Small Causes Court, and that is why I have not moved my first amendment. In this connection I had a talk with my Honourable friend, Mr. Gokhale, and I think he shared my anxiety that the tenants should be given full opportunity to bring their witnesses before the Court in cases of evictions and they should have the right of appeal. I hope that since he shared my anxiety on this subject he will have no hesitation to meet me half-way. I say that only cases where the question of eviction is involved, that they should be referred to the Civil Courts, the rest of the disputes may go to the Small Causes Courts. If this is not accepted, great injustice will be done. After all, the most important clause in the whole Bill, I think, is not as much the increase of rent as the anxiety in regard to eviction. People are not so much worried because they may have to pay Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 more, but they are anxious that nothing should be passed in this House as a result of which they may lose the possession of their houses or business premises. Number of amendments have been therefore moved to the eviction clause. Therefore I say that we should give our very serious consideration to this aspect of the question, and justice should be done to both the parties by giving them an ample opportunity to present their case before a proper court, and not hastily decide the cases of eviction. This point may be more ably argued by one who is a lawyer, and who can understand the implications of bringing such cases before the Small Causes Court. I submit Sir, that you with your vast experience as a lawyer will also appreciate the point that I have tried to make. I hope that the Honourable Member will accept my amendment.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in clause 14 of the Bill, the following new sub-clause be inserted as sub-clause (1) and the existing clause be re-numbered as sub-clause (2) :

'(1) All suits for eviction of tenants under this Act may be determined by any Court which would have ordinarily jurisdiction to hear and decide a suit for eviction of a tenant from the premises in respect of which the question arises.'"

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley Non-Muhammadan): I read in this amendment a protest against cognisance of suits under the Bill, by the Small Causes Court and to that extent the amendment which has been put before the House has my sympathy. A reference to the Small Causes Court has recalled to my memory all the horrors of such Courts. It has reminded me of the ordeal which I had to undergo as a junior member of the legal profession. Sir, the stern attitude which a Judge of the Small Causes Court puts on, his indifference to the evidence which is being taken in his Court, the

hurried way in which a witness is jostled out of the witness box, and the unceremonious manner in which another witness is put into the witness box, the commencement of the writing of the judgment by the Judge before the learned pleaders have even begun their argument, the chorus of arguments which is made by lawyers appearing on both sides unheeded by the Court, and then the passing of the orders while the arguments of the pleaders are still going on and the exultant appearance of the victorious pleader and the client, as well as the support which is given by the Clerk of the Court and other officials—all these Sir, are unforgettable pictures. Even now, I feel unnerved by the recollection of what happened then and I feel like collapsing. But I am afraid many of the Honourable Members of this House have no experience of the Small Causes Court. But some might have experience of what is known as Summary Court Martial.

Permit me, Sir, to digress a bit to illustrate my point. Once I had the opportunity of appearing in the defence of an accused before a Summary Court Martial. The case for the prosecution was that he was in possession of certain blankets belonging to the American Army. The evidence was gone into. In vain did I try to cross-examine and point out that the man had no knowledge of the contents of the trunk where the blankets were found and that he was not in dishonest possession. Well both myself and my client were trembling before the ordeal. Fortunately the wife of the accused was called as a witness by the defence and the wife said that these things were in her possession without the knowledge of the husband and they were left there by a young soldier whose coming to the house was not known to the husband. This bit of evidence somehow struck the finer chords of the young officer who presided over the court and to my greatest surprise I found that the accused was acquitted. As soon as the order was passed both myself and my client ran away from the premises of the Court. Considering my age and my size, the House will certainly admit that I did a very fine job. I reached the streets before my client.

These Summary Court Martials and Small Causes Courts are not far removed from each other so far as the speed with which the judgments are delivered. It will be said that this evil can be remedied by providing for an appeal. I ask those who hold this view to realize what effect it will have on the Small Court judges in those provinces which will be affected? Do they realise that this invasion of the rights of the Small Causes Courts to have no appeal against their decision may bring about sympathetic strike of the Small Court judges throughout India? Do they realise that an appeal from a decision where no evidence is recorded, where proceedings are not conducted in a regular manner, will be an appeal without any meaning and foundation? It will only give rise to affidavits and counter-affidavits which cannot be believed by the Court. I am saying this to show that the provision of an appeal is entirely meaningless. It is better to omit this clause altogether. In this connection I may point out that in the rent control orders which were promulgated by ordinance, they provided for an appeal. The decision of the Deputy Commissioner was subject to an appeal to the Commissioner. But in this piece of legislation we do not find any such provision. If the whole matter has to be decided by the Small Causes Court that means the parties are deprived of the right of appeal. It is not so much the result or the decision of the Court which makes me apprehensive. The decision of the Court may not always be against the tenant nor against the landlord. A poor landlord may sometimes lose against a rich tenant in a Small Causes Court and a rich tenant may win. It is not the decision that matters but the risks to which the parties are subjected.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): I rise to support the amendment moved by Miss Maniben Kari. I need not dwell on the status of the Small Causes Court nor need I comment

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]
on their proceedings. Probably his experience of Assam would not convince everyone that the same story is repeated in Delhi. But what I want to impress is that the question of eviction is the major question in the whole of the Bill. There is a great anxiety on the part of the tenants to see that this particular clause is not executed in a manner which will make it more embarrassing for them than anything else. I only want to tell this House that if the eviction is decided in a Small Causes Court, then the question of appeal is one which is very important and in this case it will be an impediment against the decision which will be taken by the Small Causes Court. Good, bad, or indifferent, I am not concerned and I am not going to suggest anything about the Small Causes Court as was suggested by the previous speaker from his own experiences in Assam. But I want to impress on the House that it is definitely better that in a matter like this the jurisdiction is given to the Central Court and not to the Small Causes Court where the proceedings are more on summary lines.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I want to add a few words to what has already been spoken on the amendment. I understand that the amendment which is to be moved by Mr. Ghani is acceptable to Government. Before that stage comes, I would offer my suggestions to the House as whole. Appeal power is proposed to be given against a decision of the summary court. We know that the powers exercised by a higher court are only on question of law and not of fact. 99 per cent. of the disputes in the original trial courts are on questions of fact such as the convenience of the landlord, the suitability of the landlord's accommodation, etc. In view of the amendment which has been accepted (the amendment moved by Mr. Gupta) other questions of reasonableness will also be considered. But all these are entirely questions of fact. When we provide for summary trials as suggested and then we provide appellate jurisdiction, it should be remembered that the higher court will deal with questions of law and will interfere only when there is an error or misdirection in the lower court.

Mr. President: I am afraid the Honourable Member has in view the cases of revision which are ordinarily permissible under the Code of Civil Procedure. These will stand on a different footing from appeals.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: If really appeal power which is different from and independent of revisional power is proposed to be given, the words have to be recast. That is my submission.

Mr. President: The wording as it stands is not clear to me. In fact I want to raise that point. The Honourable Member may make his suggestion.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: My fear is that on the question of facts it is very difficult to unsettle the decision of summary courts unless the superior court is to be given the power to reopen questions of fact. There are several points involved. The original trial court will not record evidence *ex tunc*.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural)
The substance is recorded.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Substance means a little portion and then so far as the other witnesses are concerned "as above, as above" is recorded. Therefore the evidence which is recorded will practically be the gist of the impression made upon the mind of the judge by the bulk of the witnesses. The appeal court is entirely at the mercy of the impression of the lower court.

Coming to the decisions of the summary courts, it is known to every body, including yourself, Sir, that summary trials are different from other trials in this respect that 90 per cent. of the cases are decided in favour of the

applicant. My friend, Mr. Chundrigar yesterday claimed to be a lawyer and I recognise his claim. I appeal to him also to understand that in criminal trials a summary trial means a summary conviction, except in very exceptional cases where there is an acquittal as in the case which my friend Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhury related, where the wife came to the rescue of the husband.

Coming to the safeguards I will give only one example as to how trials take place. There was a suit for a handnote. I happened to be a junior for the defendant in a case. The plaintiff's claim was based on a handnote for a sum of rupees. The plaintiff was a Kabuli and illiterate. He could not read Bengalee in which the handnote was written. There was no witness to attest the payment. Every thing was finished. The plaintiff's pleader went away in despair and in the verandah of the court there was a tussle between the plaintiff and his pleader. The former thought that the latter was incompetent. The suit was taken up at 2 p.m. and at about 2-30 p.m. I was anxious to know what happened to my client's case. I went in and heard that a decree was given for paddy. It is an extreme case no doubt but things are done so more or less in a summary fashion. If you take statistics you will find that in the civil, criminal or revenue court 95 per cent. of the cases are decided in favour of the applicant, plaintiff, petitioner or complainant. If we really mean to give a right of appeal to the aggrieved party, the least that we ought to do is to give a regular procedure. Even in this Bill in the case of criminal prosecution for *pugri* money it is not left to summary trial. I want the attention of the Honourable Member in charge to the fact that so far as prosecutions of either landlords or tenants are concerned in the matter of *pugri* money no recourse is had to summary proceedings but it is left to ordinary trials. If we are giving the benefit of ordinary trial to the parties in a criminal matter like unfair premium, why in the same Bill we are having recourse to summary trials in the matter of enhancement of rent. Therefore, Sir, let us not only have an appeal but a provision for regular trial.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly; Non-Muhammadian Rural). Sir, I am afraid I am unable to agree with my lawyer friend's suggestion. If you really want a speedy justice in all these matters, it is better that there is summary procedure and I do not think that really a Small Causes Court is careless in the disposal of cases. So far as my Province is concerned I have found them to be presided over by experienced judges. We have judges of a particular cadre and a particular length of service and not junior munsiffs to preside over Small Cause Courts. We want on the one hand speedy justice and on the other hand we want also that parties to causes should as far as possible be safeguarded and they should have the services of an experienced lawyer at their disposal. In the interests of both sides I think it is better that appeals and second appeals are not allowed. As a matter of fact there are some tenancy laws like the Madras Estates Land Act in the Madras Province. The trial in the first instance is held by a Deputy Collector in the division or the district. They are suits of a summary nature and the evidence is not recorded but notes of evidence are taken. At the same time there are appeals provided for and the appeals are regular affairs. There are not only first and second appeals, there are also appeals to the Privy Council and some of them have laid down the law in no unmistakable terms. There have been classic judgments on appeals from such summary trials. I would say that speedy justice requires a summary procedure to be adopted and at the same time an appeal should be given. The jurisdiction to try suits of a particular nature is defined in this clause and if necessary a safeguard may be imposed that the judge who presides over such courts ought to be of such and such length of service or qualification. That I believe would be sufficient to assure my friends that correct justice is done to the parties.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I would suggest to the Government to consider seriously

whether the landlord should be so much helped as to secure for him a summary decision. Would it not be better to go back to the original provisions contained in the Bill as it was introduced, viz., clauses 12, 13 and 14?

Lala Dashbandhu Gupta (Delhi: General): (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 21st March 1947 English translation given below.—*Ed. of D.*)

Sir, My object by this amendment is that as restrictions have been placed on the landlords there must be some sort of assurance on this head at least that legal proceedings will not be dragged for years at a stretch. This Act is being enacted for two years. There are cases pending in the court for the last many years and thousands of rupees are spent by the parties. For this very object the following provision is made in Khan Abdul Ghani Khan's amendment. "shall be appealable to the Court of Justice." I take it that in appealable cases all the necessary evidence will be taken. Therefore, if desired it may be put like this: "sutable evidence may be recorded." I think this will carry out the object otherwise in the face of the two years limitation the Civil Procedure Code has no meaning.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, the provision in the original Bill was contained in clauses 12, 13 and 14. In clause 12 we had provided that ordinarily all suits for eviction should go to the ordinary civil court, except as may be otherwise provided by rules made under the next clause. Now, the next clause gave powers to the High Court with the concurrence of the Chief Commissioner to

"Make rules to determine the classes of courts which shall have power to hear and decide original cases, appeals and applications for revision and to deal with execution processes conferred by sub-section (1) shall include power to determine in what circumstances the parties shall have a right to appeal or apply for review or revision in cases under this Act, and further to determine how and by what authority, it shall be decided whether any particular case shall be deemed to be a case under this Act. (3) All rules made under this section shall be published in the official Gazette."

The next clause provided that

"The provisions of this Act and of any rules made under section 13 shall, in respect of any case under this Act, have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or any other law."

That was a very comprehensive and flexible provision which would have allowed the High Court and the Chief Commissioner between them to allow several variations and to provide a speedy procedure, a very expeditious method of dealing with other complicated cases. That we thought, Sir, was a very salutary provision. But when the matter was discussed in Select Committee the majority of members felt that all these provisions should be given up in favour of the ordinary Small Cause Courts. Therefore the clause as it now stands in the revised draft came to be inserted in place of the original three clauses. I must confess that I was very unhappy with this clause; and since the Select Committee Report we have been having discussions and an amendment has been tabled which I would have accepted but for the debate which has now taken place which has changed the whole aspect of things. That amendment provided that in all eviction cases, there should be an appeal to the District Judge. That would have partly met the difficulty, but I quite see that it does not wholly meet the situation. A Small Cause Court does not record evidence and an appeal may be infructuous. I quite see the difficulty, and I am perfectly willing to be guided by the wishes of the House. If the House so desires, I suggest that we go back to the original three clauses in substitution of the present clause; but I leave myself entirely in the hands of the House.

I would just like to add that the actual amendment which has been moved by Miss Kara cannot possibly be accepted as it stands, because the wording requires many changes.

An Honourable Member: You may recast the wordings as you like.

Miss Maniben Kase: In view of the speech of the Honourable Member, if he is willing to restore the original clauses, I would be willing to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. President: I am not prepared to entertain a conditional application for leave to withdraw the amendment. It must be absolute. For aught I know the Honourable Member may change his mind or he may not have made up his mind. The position therefore is that the amendment is before the House.

I was just considering as to whether in substance, though not in form, the amendment is different from the opposition to the clause. If the idea is to have concurrent jurisdiction, the Small Cause Court will also have jurisdiction in certain classes of cases. If the idea is to have something intermediate, then the previous procedure is there. I do not wish to express my opinion any further except to say that the Small Cause Courts are rather treated unjustly in the course of this discussion.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Will you permit me, Sir, to move that for clause 14, the original clauses 12, 13 and 14 be substituted?

Mr. President: I am afraid they will have to be put together as one section. Is the House substantially agreed on that?

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: With your permission, Sir, I would still oppose the suggestion that has been made now. I am quite agreeable to the suggestion that so far as eviction cases are concerned they may be appealable or they may be tried by ordinary court. So far as the question of payments is concerned I do not think it would be fair to the landlords to send those cases again to the civil court. That has been the chief complaint of the landlords—that their rents have not been realised for years. When we have tightened up the landlord so much I do not therefore think it is fair that we go back to the same lengthy procedure of taking those cases to the civil court. My friend Mr. Sanjay was also of that opinion. Therefore I would limit this question of eviction only to the civil courts and not the entire case. That has not been the demand at all. If we leave the question of framing the rules to the Local Government, it means that we will be reviving the Rent Controllers' regime. Up till now all these cases have been tried by the Rent Controller and the Rent Controller invariably has not been even a judicial man. Therefore I say we must define it definitely that all cases except the eviction cases go to the Small Causes Court.

Mr. President: If it is permissible for the Chair to make a suggestion, what appears to me to be the position is this. I do not know anything about the constitution and the jurisdiction of the Small Causes Courts in the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. But from what I know from Bombay, all money suits will be cognizable by the Small Causes Court. All suits for eviction will be outside the scope of the Small Causes Court. I do not know whether the position here is identical and perhaps the Secretary for the Legal Department may be able to enlighten us as to what the position is. If that is so, then I think there is a substantial agreement in the House, as I see that: all suits for rent may go to Small Causes Courts and suits for eviction may go to ordinary courts. If that is the consensus of opinion in the House, unless the Small Causes Court in Delhi can also take cognizance of suits in respect of immoveable properties, the best course seems to be to drop this clause.

Brijraj Bohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Under the ordinary law a rent suit, however small, is not triable by a Small Cause Court.

Mr. President: That is not so. I can definitely say about Bombay. It all depends on the legal position and the jurisdiction of the Court of Small Causes in the provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara.

Sri T. V. Satakopchari: The Presidency Small Cause Court Act I believe applies to Delhi also.

Mr. President: We must pass this Bill by 4-30 or 5 p.m. If the Honourable Member for Government is agreeable, what I would suggest is this. Let us now go on to clause 15 and the further provisions of the Bill. In the meanwhile the Department may look into the position about the jurisdiction of the Small Cause Courts. If the legal position is found to be that the Small Cause Courts will have no jurisdiction whatever in the matter of eviction and will have jurisdiction only in matters relating to pecuniary claims, then the matter will have to be reconsidered.

Mr. Shavar A. Lal (Government of India. Nominated Official): This may be held over for some time.

Mr. President: Very well. I am now proceeding with clause 15.

The question is:

"That clause 15 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

The First Schedule was added to the Bill.

Mr. President: The Second Schedule. There are amendments to this.

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, with your permission I shall move Nos. 44 and 45 together. They are inter-related. I move—

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill, part (c) (ii) of paragraph 1 be omitted", and

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in paragraph 2 for the words and figures '2nd day of June 1944', the words and figures '1st day of November, 1939' be substituted."

The clause as it stands means that those houses which have been built after the Rent Control Bill of 1939 and between 1940 and 1944 will be subjected to the increment under this Bill. My contention is that when the rents were controlled in 1939 they were controlled taking into consideration the scarcity of place and also the difficulties of getting material. 1939 was regarded as a standard rent year after taking into consideration the scarcity of place and various other difficulties. Buildings that were built after that time were already charging or have charged high rents. I definitely know that those buildings that were put up in 1941, 1942 and 1943 were free of any control and that being the case there was nothing to prevent the landlords from charging any rent they liked, taking advantage of the scarcity of the place. One of the reasons for the heartburning among the landlords is that the rent of a house which was rented till 1939 was fixed, and in the case of houses built in the same vicinity, if not next door, the rents are three or four times more. Now, in the case of those people who are already paying four times more, you are allowing a further increase. This will not be fair in the cases of those tenants who first rented houses after 1939. The argument put forward is that we are excluding those buildings which were built after 1944. But there are other reasons for their exclusion. Assuming that a house in 1939 was rented for Rs. 50 and a similar house built in 1940 or 1941 is already charging something like Rs. 100, will it be right to say that people paying Rs. 100 should also pay increased rent according to the present Bill? I therefore suggest that all the houses that were built before 1944 should not be subjected to this increase and the rents should be increased only in those cases where the landlords were not allowed to have any increment on account of the rent control in 1939. The reply given to one of the suggestions made by Mr. Joshi yesterday was that if an exorbitant rent was charged, then it was open to the tenant to go to the Rent Controller and have a proper rent

fixed. We all know that the tenants are neither educated nor have they the time to go to the Rent Controller.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is going over the same ground which has been dealt with once or twice already. The understanding was that amendments were to be put and explained shortly.

Miss Maniben Kara: I just wanted to point out the two cases and bring to the notice of the members that the assumption that the rents were the same in both cases is not true. It will not be right for us to only exclude houses built after 1944 and allow the rent to be increased for those buildings that were built between 1940 and 1943. I, therefore, suggest that those buildings also should be excluded because we all know from experience that the rents of those buildings are definitely higher than of those buildings that were built in 1939. With these words, I move my amendments.

Mr. President: Amendments moved:

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill, part (e) (u) of paragraph 1 be omitted"; and

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in paragraph 2 for the words and figures '2nd day of June 1944', the words and figures '1st day of November, 1939' be substituted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I am unable to accept both the amendments.

Miss Maniben Kara: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amend-

The amendments were by leave of the Assembly

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Sir, I move

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in paragraph 2, the word 'first' be

"That in Part B of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in paragraph 2, the word 'first' be omitted";

Mr. President: Amendments moved

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in paragraph 2, the word 'first' be omitted"; and

"That in Part B of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in paragraph 2, the word 'first' be omitted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I accept both the amendments

Mr. President: The question is.

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in paragraph 2, the word 'first' be omitted"; and

"That in Part B of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in paragraph 2, the word 'first' be omitted."

The motion was adopted

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, I move.

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in part (a) of paragraph 3, for the figures '12½ per cent.', the figures '6½ per cent' be substituted

Sir, as you will see, I have not cared to move any amendments in the increase of rent of those people whose capacity to pay has also increased. My amendment will only affect those people who are paying Rs 25 a month and below. The argument advanced yesterday by many of my friends here was that the earning capacity of the workers has increased because they are getting the dearness allowance and higher wages. I can say from my experience of working in the labour that the real wages of the workers have fallen. If the workers are receiving more wages, they are not being paid equal to the cost of living which has increased by 250 per cent. It is not right to say, therefore, that the workers are getting more. I, therefore, feel that the 6½ per cent. increase for the poorer strata of the people may be accepted by my Honourable friend.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in part (a) of paragraph 3, for the figures '12½ per cent', the figures '6½ per cent' be substituted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I am unable to accept the amendment.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in part (a) of paragraph 3, for the figures '12½ per cent', the figures '6½ per cent' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I think there is one amendment in my name which should come first

Mr. President: I have got these amendments listed according to the various places in reference in the Bill itself. So, I am proceeding with the order of the Bill rather than the order in which the amendments have been printed. The Honourable Member's amendment will come next to Mr Gupta's

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, I move:

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill after paragraph 4, the following new paragraph be added, namely:

'5 Where the premises in respect of which rent is payable, not being premises to which paragraph 2 applies, are used primarily as residence and partly for business or profession, the standard rent of the premises shall be the mean of the rent as calculated under paragraphs 3 and 4'

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill after paragraph 4, the following new paragraph be added, namely:

'5 Where the premises in respect of which rent is payable, not being premises to which paragraph 2 applies, are used primarily as residence and partly for business or profession, the standard rent of the premises shall be the mean of the rent as calculated under paragraphs 3 and 4'

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I accept the amendment, but I suggest that in place of the word 'partly' the word 'incidentally' be substituted, otherwise there will be great difficulty in certain cases

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: I have no objection.

Mr. President: When we are going to change the word 'partly' by 'incidentally', I think it would be better if we also change the word 'primarily' by 'mainly'

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I have no objection

Mr. President: Then, I will put the amendment in the altered form. The question is

"That in Part A of the Second Schedule to the Bill after paragraph 4, the following new paragraph be added, namely:

'5 Where the premises in respect of which rent is payable, not being premises to which paragraph 2 applies, are used mainly as residence and incidentally for business or profession, the standard rent of the premises shall be the mean of the rent as calculated under paragraphs 3 and 4'

The motion was adopted -

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I move

"That in Part B of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in paragraph 2, for the words and figures '12th day of November, 1946', the words and figures '2nd day of June, 1944' be substituted"

The object is merely to correct a mistake which occurred in print

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in Part B of the Second Schedule to the Bill, in paragraph 2, for the words and figures '12th day of November, 1946', the words and figures '2nd day of June, 1944' be substituted"

The motion was adopted.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Sir, I move:

"That in Part B of the Second Schedule to the Bill after Paragraph 4, the following new paragraph be added, namely:

'5 Where the premises in respect of which rent is payable, not being premises to which paragraph 2 applies, are used mainly as residence and incidentally for business or profession, the standard rent of the premises shall be the mean of the rent as calculated under paragraphs 3 and 4''

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I accept the amendment

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in Part B of the Second Schedule to the Bill after Paragraph 4, the following new paragraph be added, namely:

'5. Where the premises in respect of which rent is payable, not being premises to which paragraph 2 applies, are used mainly as residence and incidentally for business or profession, the standard rent of the premises shall be the mean of, the rent as calculated under paragraphs 3 and 4''

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Second Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Second schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill

The Third Schedule was added to the Bill.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I move:

"That for clause 14 of the Bill the following be substituted, namely:

- '14. (1) Except as may be otherwise provided by rules made under sub-section (2), any question which under this Act is to be determined by the court may be determined by any court which would have jurisdiction to hear and decide a suit for eviction of a tenant from the premises in respect of which the question arises.
- (2) With the concurrence of the Chief Commissioner, the High Court may make rules to determine the classes of courts which shall have power to hear and decide original cases, appeals and applications for revision and to deal with execution proceedings under this Act and the procedure to be followed by them.
- (3) The power conferred by sub-section (2) shall include power to determine in what circumstances the parties shall have a right to appeal or apply for review over revision in cases under this Act, and further to determine how and by what authority it shall be decided whether any particular case shall be deemed to be a case under this Act.
- (4) All rules made under sub-section (2) shall be published in the official gazette.
- (5) The provisions of this Act and of any rules made under sub-section (2) shall, in respect of any case under this Act, have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or any other law'."

This substantially meets the point of view that was put forward by my Honourable friend Lala Deshbandhu Gupta because it will be left to the Commissioner and the High Court to have several categories of cases, some may be tried by ordinary procedure in ordinary courts, in some cases the procedure may be summary. Complaint was made in the course of the discussion that in the matter of eviction, there should not be summary trial, which will necessitate naturally not recording of much evidence and the consequential difficulties for the appellate court to come to any correct appraisal of the facts. I submit that the scheme that was adopted originally in the Bill and which this amendment revives should serve the purpose of those sections who have tabled various amendments.

Mr. Sankar Sekhar Sahayal: What is the provision regarding rent disputes?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Rules will be framed by the High Court with the concurrence of the Chief Commissioner.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That for clause 14 of the Bill the following be substituted, namely:

- '14. (1) Except as may be otherwise provided by rules made under sub-section (2), any question which under this Act is to be determined by the court may be determined by any court which would have jurisdiction to hear and decide a suit for eviction of a tenant from the premises in respect of which the question arises.
- (2) With the concurrence of the Chief Commissioner, the High Court may make rules to determine the classes of courts which shall have power to hear and decide original cases, appeals and applications for revision and to deal with execution proceedings under this Act and the procedure to be followed by them.
- (3) The power conferred by sub-section (2) shall include power to determine in what circumstances the parties shall have a right to appeal or apply for review over revision in cases under this Act, and further to determine how and by what authority it shall be decided whether any particular case shall be deemed to be a case under this Act.
- (4) All rules made under sub-section (2) shall be published in the official gazette.
- (5) The provisions of this Act and of any rules made under sub-section (2) shall, in respect of any case under this Act, have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or any other law."

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: I am afraid the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil will complicate matters. If it is the intention of the House that ordinary courts should have jurisdiction then section 14 will be amended and it may be said that the ordinary courts may have jurisdiction. It is not necessary at all that the High Court and the Chief Commissioner should frame rules specially for trials because ordinary courts will try cases under the rules of procedure at present existing. Any further framing of rules for trial of cases will only complicate matters and the tenant will be put to great hardship. I submit, Sir, that this amendment does not help matters.

Mr. President: I shall state for the purpose of clarification what the Honourable Member Mr. Gadgil stated in his amendment and what his object is. I am not examining the position as to how far that object has been achieved by the language of the amendment. I am putting the substance of his amendment and I hope the House will try to follow and I trust that Mr. Gadgil will also try to follow and correct me if I am wrong. Already, as a result of much discussion on this clause and on the amendment of Miss Maniben Kara, opinion was expressed that while it was the desire that all suits for eviction and other purposes should be decided expeditiously, it was feared that if the procedure was summary, the parties may not get justice. In summary proceedings, even provision by way of appeal would really not carry matters far, because the record will not be sufficient to enable the appellate court to form a judgment. It was also agreed substantially that, so far as eviction was concerned, the matter may go to ordinary court, but in any case the decisions should not be delayed. Those suits should be disposed of expeditiously. The present amendment is trying to meet all points of view by giving the High Court power to make certain rules, of course in consultation with the Chief Commissioner, and by those rules, the High Court will be able to say from time to time as occasion may require, that certain suits may be tried by such and such, and certain other suits may be tried by ordinary courts. Even in trials by Court of Small Causes, the court will follow certain rules for recording evidence in detail or summarily. That is how things are proposed to be adjusted. So far as the making of rules are concerned, I understand that the Rent Controller does not figure in the picture at all. He will have no jurisdiction. The rules should be framed by High Court for the guidance of courts subordinate to the High Court so that the matter will be handled entirely by the judicial machinery of the country under the supervision of the High Court. That is, I believe, the substance of the amendment.

Now, I will read out the amendment and Honourable Members may try to follow the amendment. The amendment is that for clause 14 the following be substituted, namely:

"14. (1) Except as may be otherwise provided by rules made under sub-section (2)"—

That means of this very section in question—

"any question which under this Act is to be determined by the Court may be determined by any court which would have jurisdiction to hear and decide a suit for eviction of a tenant from the premises in respect of which the question arises."

Therefore the ordinary rule will be the ordinary courts, except when the High Court decides that special jurisdiction be given to special courts, that too by rules made, not by orders passed in individual cases.

"(2) With the concurrence of the Chief Commissioner the High Court may make rules to determine the classes of courts which shall have power to hear and decide original cases, appeals and applications for revision and to deal with execution proceedings under this Act and the procedure to be followed by them."

That is sub-section (2) rule-making powers.

"(3) The power conferred by sub-section (2) shall include power to determine in what circumstances the parties shall have a right to appeal or apply for review over revision in cases under this Act, and further to determine how and by what authority it shall be decided whether any particular case shall be deemed to be a case under this Act."

All the incidental questions of procedure will have to be decided by these rules.

"(4) All rules made under sub-section (2) shall be published in the official gazette.

(5) The provisions of this Act and of any rules made under sub-section (2) shall, in respect of any cases under this Act, have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or any other law."

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division. Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I suggest that in view of the fact that this Bill is primarily for two years, if all this procedure about rule-making and publication in the Gazette, etc. is followed it may take six months; and it may be very hard on those people who want to evict their tenants on several grounds mentioned in this Bill. So I suggest that the clause as it stands may be passed and in the next day or two Government may consider it fully and get it amended in the other House, if necessary, on Monday.

Mr. President: The difficulty would be that the present Act expires on the 24th, and if the other House makes any amendment it will have to come again to this House for concurrence. But the answer to the point raised now is that under this clause as is put now, the ordinary Civil Procedure Code is to be followed immediately, so that even if for two years no rules are made the parties will not be at a loss so far as the ordinary remedy is concerned. The only objection to that will be that ordinary civil suits will take a long time and they may remain pending and undisposed for years together. But the present difficulty is solved; that is how the scheme of the amendment goes.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, I think this whole question was considered threadbare in the Select Committee and it was felt that because it is only a temporary measure for two years we have to provide some other procedure than what is provided for in the Civil Procedure Code. Therefore we came to the conclusion that the new provision should be there. Afterwards we considered this again and the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan was to be moved. I also gave notice of another amendment and we consulted the Honourable Member in charge. I said that with the exception of suits for eviction other suits might go to the Small Causes Court, but it was pointed out again that it was no use providing for that because it would take two years. And as this Act is meant for two years it is better to

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena.]

say at the start that we do not want any tenants to be evicted, and the amendment of Miss Kinn that evictions should be altogether eliminated from the purview of this Bill should have been accepted. Either we want that there should be some provision for eviction or there should not be. If we want that there should be provision for eviction in genuine cases we should have a remedy that should be speedy. As for the framing of rules by the High Court that takes a long time. If they go to the ordinary courts and the cases take their own course it will also take two years. So I think we should decide here and now what we exactly want. If we leave it to the High Court we only shelve the question, but in effect we are not going to give any remedy for eviction.

Mr. President: The Chair has no mind this way or that, whatever the views of the person occupying the Chair individually may be. I was merely trying to place before the House what at one time seemed to be an agreed thing; this amendment seemed to me to be more or less of a compromise. And therefore I suggested that this might be postponed. The only alternative is to postpone it still further and take it up on Monday; and that means delaying the whole thing,—the interests of tenants and landlords. If any further discussion on this question is to be allowed and amendments are moved formally, I have no objection.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce). Sir, the best thing is to pass what Mr. Gadgil has proposed and take it to the Council of State. In the meantime it may be further considered.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What was agreed to before is better and let that be accepted. Mr. Gadgil's amendment or any other amendment after consideration may be moved in the Council of State.

Mr. President: I think the substance comes to this that they do not seem to be agreed even on the compromise. So the only thing is to discuss the matter and have it decided by voting. Are Government in a position to give an assurance that they will take care to see that the rules are expedited?

Mr. Shavar A. Lal: We can ask the Chief Commissioner to publish a draft and send it to the High Court for approval and the High Court will pass it with modifications. That will expedite the passing of the rules.

Mr. President: Otherwise we shall be in a very sorry plight after the 24th.

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, on a point of information, I have not understood this amendment of Mr. Gadgil. I want to know whether eviction cases also will go to the Court of Small Causes.

Mr. President: No. Speaking strictly in terms of the law the reply will be that they will go and they will not go. As I explained, it is not the desire of any one to send eviction suits to the Small Cause Court, not even those who seem to put forward the landlords' case. So far as money cases are concerned they will go to the Small Cause Court; so far as other cases go—eviction particularly—they will go to the ordinary courts. What this amendment seeks to do is to leave the matter entirely to ordinary courts and give the High Court, with the concurrence of the Chief Commissioner, certain rule-making powers so as to relieve congestion in the ordinary courts. If a large number of suits of that type are filed and the courts are unable to dispose them of the High Court may, by rules, say that such suits can be tried by certain classes of courts,—not necessarily by the Small Causes Court. The amendment further gives the right of rule-making for the purpose of determining the procedure, taking of evidence, etc. All these things are sought to be provided for by the rule-making power of the High Court. The High Court

will exercise that power with the concurrence of the Chief Commissioner because of administrative considerations and not because of the judicial considerations involved in the trial of suits. May I know if the Honourable Member wants to press the amendment?

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, in view of the amendment of Mr. Gadgil and as a compromise I wish to withdraw my amendment.

The Bill was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Let us know Government's views.

Mr. President: I think that this is an agreed amendment.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, there is some disagreement about the agreed amendment, and there is some confusion. I want to make it clear that this was the original proposal which the Government first put before the House and Government are therefore prepared to accept the amendment moved by Mr. Gadgil. If anybody has any better suggestions to offer, he can do so in the Council of State. But I feel that this is the most flexible method of doing things, and on behalf of Government, we will try our best to expedite matters and see that the High Court does frame rules as quickly as possible. I shall bring to the notice of the High Court through the Chief Commissioner that it is generally the wish of this House the eviction cases should be left to be tried by ordinary courts and other cases may be tried in Small Causes Courts. Even in the Select Committee, we were rather doubtful about the availability of Small Cause Court judges in Delhi, and if the proposal as framed by the Select Committee is left in and we find that Small Cause Court judges are very few, we will be up against the same sort of difficulty. Therefore, Sir, I think it is much better under the circumstances to leave it to the High Court to decide how best these cases could be expedited.

Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan: Does it mean that cases of eviction will be referred to the High Court, and those cases where the tenants have not paid rent for over a year or two years and do not want to pay, would be left to the ordinary courts, and since eviction cannot take place the arrears will go on multiplying?

Mr. President: They will not refer to the High Court individual cases of arrears of rent.

The question is

"That for clause 14 of the Bill the following be substituted, namely :

- "14 (1) Except as may be otherwise provided by rules made under sub-section (2), any question which under this Act is to be determined by the court may be determined by any court which would have jurisdiction to hear and decide a suit for eviction of a tenant from the premises in respect of which the question arises
- (2) With the concurrence of the Chief Commissioner, the High Court may make rules to determine the classes of courts which shall have power to hear and decide original cases, appeals and applications for revision and to deal with execution proceedings under this Act and the procedure to be following by them.
- (3) The provisions of this Act and of any rules made under sub-section (2) shall in respect of circumstances the parties shall have a right to appeal or to apply for review over revision in cases under this Act, and further to determine how and by what authority it shall be decided whether any particular case shall be deemed to be a case under this Act "
- "(4) All rules made under sub-section (2) shall be published in the official Gazette
- (5) The provisions of this Act and of any rules made under sub-section (2) shall in respect of any cases under this Act have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or any other law "

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The other amendments to clause 14 automatically drop out as this clause is substituted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. President: Clause 1.

Mr. Sasanka Sozhar Sanyal: In this connection without going into my amendment, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill to one lacuna which will defeat his purpose.

[At this stage, Mr. President vacated the chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President. (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan)].

The idea is that those premises will be outside the purview of this Act which are constructed after the commencement of this Act, but the word 'completed' is very vague, because it may be that a building was tenanted even before its completion. After the commencement of this Act one room will be required to be added, or even a verandah, to show the completion after the commencement of this Act. Therefore I was suggesting that in order to avoid the object being defeated the Honourable Member should recast the provision in this way 'to any premises which is constructed after the commencement of this Act.' The word 'completed' is rather vague and misleading. The amendment which stands in my name has also got a lacuna, for it suggests substitution of the word 'begun' for 'completed'. That again is vague, and in order to remedy one defect I adopted another. Therefore, I hope, Sir, the House will consider this matter, and the Honourable Member in charge will suitably amend this provision.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, I have not moved my amendment. I have simply drawn the attention of the Honourable Member to one lacuna in part (a) of sub-clause (2) of clause 1.

Mr. Deputy President: I thought the Honourable the President had allowed the Honourable Member to move his amendment. But if the Honourable Member does not want to move his amendment, he cannot take up the time of the House for discussing the matter like this. Mr. Reddiar.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot cum Chingleput. Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move.

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill, after the word 'Act' the words 'and which had not been let in whole or in part' be inserted."

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved:

"That in part (a) of sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill, after the word 'Act' the words 'and which had not been let in whole or in part' be inserted."

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, There will always be a number of border line cases, and it is very difficult to draw a distinction and say exactly at what stage we should stop and where new things should begin. But, I can quite see, that there may be some houses which are already let, and in order to bring in these houses which are already tenanted although they may not be completed, I am prepared to have this addition made with a slight alteration—namely 'and which have been let before the commencement of this Act'—if my Honourable friend is willing to accept this alteration.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Sir, I beg to move

"That for part (a) of sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely .

'(a) to any premises the construction of which is not completed and which are not let to a tenant before the commencement of this Act, or'

This means the same thing as the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill has said. Moreover I always think it better in legislating to put things like this in the negative form than in the positive form. If we put in the positive form we unnecessarily include many things. For example, if we say, as it has been put in the Bill, that it shall not apply to any premises. . .

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I accept this amendment, and I hope my Honourable friend, Mr Reddiar will withdraw his amendment.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the amendment moved by me

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That for part (a) of sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill, the following be substituted, namely

'(a) to any premises the construction of which is not completed and which are not a tenant before the commencement of this Act, or'

The motion was adopted

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That clause 1 as amended, stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill

Miss Maniben Kara: Sir, I move:

"That in the Long Title of the Bill, the words 'and evictions' be omitted," and

"That in the Preamble to the Bill, the words 'and evictions' be omitted."

Generally when a title is given to a Bill it indicates the purpose of the Bill. The Bill before this House is for the control of rents. The purpose of the Bill is to control the rent. I therefore do not see any reason why we should bring the word "eviction" in the Preamble and in the Long Title. The argument in favour of the present title is that eviction clause is embodied in the Bill. There should be no harm in publishing the word "eviction" in the Preamble and the Title if the purpose of the Bill was "eviction". Since eviction comes as a consequence of a certain breach of a contract between the landlord and the tenant it should not be included in the title. The Bill is meant for the control of the rent and not for evictions. The bill has not been brought forward for the purposes of evictions. That being the case, and that being the purpose of the Bill, I think this word eviction should be taken out from the Title and Preamble. Not only it is misleading, but retaining it in the Title and Preamble will result in Courts putting a wider interpretation to eviction clause when the cases go to the court for settling of disputes. The Court will take into consideration that the purpose of the Bill was "eviction" as well as "control of the rent", which is not the purpose of the Bill as we have all understood it. From the speeches and the amendments moved, it is very clear that the members of this House are not at all anxious that there should be any eviction, but the evictions will come in the natural course. I therefore hope that my amendment will be accepted by the Honourable Member

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved.

"That in the Long Title of the Bill, the words 'and evictions' be omitted," and

"That in the Preamble to the Bill, the words 'and evictions' be omitted"

Does the Honourable Member accept this amendment?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, the Bill provides for evictions and I do not see anything wrong in the title and preamble containing these two words

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: There is probably a misapprehension. The preamble does not form part of the law and so it makes no difference whether the phrase is there or not. In regard to this, whenever there is a tenancy or a contract of tenancy there is a legal nexus of eviction which is consequent. There may be or may not be eviction. But there is a legal connection and eviction may result. The law as it is now passed into a statute provides for control of rent and control of evictions. My honourable friend may invite her

[SHI T V Satakopachari]

attention to the word 'control', which controls both the phrases, rents and evictions. Therefore, the conjunctive "and" is distributive in its effect. It is an Act to provide control for the rent and control evictions. If my honourable friend will read it like that I am sure she will be satisfied and readily agree to retain the words instead of deleting them.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That in the Long Title of the Bill, the words 'and evictions' be omitted," and

"That in the Preamble to the Bill, the words 'and evictions' be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That the Title and Preamble, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Sir, I move

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

I am most grateful to all Honourable Members of this House for the manner in which they have co-operated with me and helped me, in spite of my inexperience and ignorance of the procedure of this Honourable House, to get through all these complicated amendments.

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved.

"That the Bill, as amended be passed."

Mr. Shavax A. Lal: Sir, I move

"That the word 'for' occurring at the end of part (b) (iii) of sub-clause 1 of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is.

"That the word 'for' occurring at the end of part (b) (iii) of sub-clause 1 of clause 9 of the Bill be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I want to move another amendment. There was an amendment in the name of Pandit Balkrishna Sharma and another in the name of Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava and so I did not want to move my amendment. It was said that one of my amendment was acceptable to Mr. Gokhale and therefore I moved it. As a matter of fact there was two amendments in my name. One was which I moved and the one I wanted to move was a different one. I want to correct that mistake.

Mr. Deputy President: What does the Honourable Member want?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I want to correct the accidental mistake and to move.

"That for part (f) of sub-clause 1 of clause 9 of the Bill"

Mr. Deputy President: Which clause is he referring to?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: On a point order. Can the Honourable Member now go back and amend the Bill when we are in the third reading stage?

Mr. Deputy President: I am just trying to understand what he means. It is not clear to me. If it is a substantial amendment to the clause that cannot be moved. If it is a consequential amendment, it may be moved.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There is an amendment standing in my name. It reads

"That after part (e) of sub-clause (1) of clause 9 of the Bill, the following new part be inserted and the subsequent parts be re-numbered accordingly.

(f) that the tenant, since the letting of the house, has built, acquired, or been allotted a suitable residential house."

The other amendment which was moved was "since the commencement of the Act" As a matter of fact my friend Mr. Balkrishna Sharma had an

amendment saying that it should be from the 1st January 1939. I was under the impression that I was moving for a change in the date, because the House will remember that subsequently the date was changed to 1943. In another place we changed it to 2nd June 1944. I was under the impression that it was merely change of date and not "before the commencement of the Act". There are genuine cases where tenants have got houses and they have been allotted another government quarter and they are not giving it up or they have built another suitable house and are letting it out at high rents and not leaving the one rented. We wanted to cover those cases. I want to correct that mistake by changing it to "that the tenant after 2nd June 1944 has built, purchased or otherwise acquired".

Mr. Deputy President: I am afraid this is not a consequential amendment. It is a substantial amendment. It is unfortunate that it was overlooked but it cannot be helped at this stage.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, the Government is agreeable to accepting the amendment.

Mr. Deputy President: The Government cannot alter the procedure. Even if the Government is willing, the Chair cannot allow it. At the third reading only consequential amendments can be made and it is unfortunate that such a good amendment, as far as I know, has been overlooked.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, I reciprocate the felicitations of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill. I am glad to tell him that we are very happy that the Bill has been considerably improved by discussion in the House and I am grateful that the Honourable Member has responded so cordially as he promised to do when he first introduced the Bill. But there I part company with him with two regrets. One is that in this Bill for the first time provision has been made that a tenant shall be ejectable for default in payment of rent only after notice within the meaning of the Transfer of Property Act has been served on the tenant. This was not the provision before under the Rent Control Order and many a tenant have not only been evicted but dispossessed on the basis of a decree, where the landlord tried to avoid receiving payment of rent and then fell upon him for default and the tenant was evicted. We cannot settle these questions now, because there was dis-possession already. There are cases in which such decrees have been passed. Those decrees gave the benefit to the landlords merely on the ground that the rent was not paid in time. As was pointed by Miss Kara on many occasions a slight lack of vigilance on the part of the tenant might be responsible for non-payment. I go further than that. The landlord may keep up good relations with the tenant just to disarm his suspicion. Then after some time he might create the impression on the tenant that he could take the rent afterwards and the tenant not suspecting might not hasten to send rent. The landlord towards the end of the period might absent himself and still the tenant does not suspect thinking that the landlord will take the rent on his return. The landlord then suddenly comes and runs to the Controller and gets the tenant evicted for non-payment of rent. I am very sorry that this Bill has not made any retrospective provision for a number of those cases.

This Bill has been hard to sub-tenants in respect of the whole premises. You know under what circumstances the sub-tenants have taken their premises. They could not get the premises direct from the landlord, because the landlord has already given it to a tenant. Instead of getting the premises from the landlord, the sub-tenant nets the whole of it from a tenant. It is not his fault that he could not get accommodation elsewhere. And for this probably he had to pay plenty of money. Today this Bill has not come forward to help those parties.

With these two regrets expressed as a friend, I repeat my felicitations and I congratulate not only the member in charge but also other members of all

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal] parties, who have contributed to the building up of a much better Bill than it came out from the Select Committee.

Lala Desabandhu Gupta (Delhi General) (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 21st March 1947. English translation given below—*Ed. of D.*) Sir, I take the opportunity to congratulate my learned friend Mr. Gokhale and to thank those friends who took interest in a Bill which related to Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara only and took interest in a Bill which related to Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara only and tried to make it as much acceptable as possible. But, Sir, I cannot leave it without saying that there are still a lot of learners left in this Bill. The Select Committee considered only two or three things. Firstly, that the landlords may get a reasonable rent in time. Secondly so far as the tenants were concerned extreme efforts were made to save them from eviction. Thus it was tried to give this security of tenancy both to tenants and sub-tenants. This security has accordingly been provided for the sub-tenants and fair rent has been fixed for them and this was necessary. Keeping in view the privileges which have been granted to the tenants and the sub-tenants it was essential to provide for speedy justice. I am sorry that my learned friend Mr. Gokhale has disregarded this point by accepting Mr. Gadgil's amendment. In their report the Select Committee had all those things in mind but now the balance has been disturbed. My friend Gadgil has taken an illegal advantage of his position as the front benches. I may point out that it was not the purpose of the Select Committee by proposing the judicial machinery of Small Causes Courts that any injustice may be done to the tenants. There are cases in my knowledge which have been pending for the last three years in the Courts and they have not yet been decided. Neither the landlord nor the tenant can be benefitted by litigation. Vakils, of course, squeeze out all the benefit and they belong to Mr. Gadgil's class. I once more repeat that Mr. Gadgil's proposal is beneficial neither to the landlord nor to the tenants and I may be allowed to say that by accepting that amendment Mr. Gokhale has not kept the agreement which he made in the Select Committee. I am, however, pleased that he has given the assurance that while writing to the High Court he will bear in mind that rules may be speedily framed not only for this but in such a manner that there may be no litigation in the Courts also. I want to make it clear that so far as eviction is concerned I strongly hold that no tenant should be evicted, nor am I in favour of the eviction of the sub-tenant. So, if only eviction cases were sent to the Small Causes Courts I will have no objection. Mr. Sanyal and Miss Kara were of the same view and I, too, was not against it. But, I understand that it is necessary to have the cases regarding rent filed in the Small Causes Court. My experience is that it takes a long time to do things. If the rules were given to the High Court for framing and the consent of the Local Government was made essential, it will take a very long time. Friends from other provinces do not know the Local Government's condition here. My friends have no idea how the orders of Government of India are acted upon here. Probably the treasury benches have a little experience as to how much co-operation they receive from the local Government. I believe that unless the Government insisted to have the rules framed as speedily as possible and in accordance with intentions of this House it will be difficult to follow them. Rent cases remain pending in the Courts for years at a stretch. I do not find it necessary to go in details into reports heard about rent cases and about the officers making money out of the rent control cases. Every person in Delhi tells these stories. I do not like that such things should be possible under this Act. For these reasons the proposal of Small Causes Courts was made. The House has, however, rejected it and I feel sorry for it. I hope that the assurance now given by the Government will be adhered to.

Sir, I have to say one or two more things in this connection. Firstly, we

have not been able to make any exceptions with regard to the properties owned by widows or orphans or public institutions. Secondly, we have provided for the vacation of business premises, notwithstanding that many hard cases came before us. Recently a case has been brought to my notice. A person who had rented a part of his property to a businessman wanted to get it vacated. He offered Rs. 10,000 to the tenant in this connection but the tenant gave it to another and received Rs. 19,000 from him. Knowing the case I opposed the provision of eviction in the case of business premises because it can be abused. The landlords harass the businessmen without any reason. For that reason I opposed it although I wanted that something should be done for hard cases as stated by me. I have sympathy for landlords who want to get their property vacated for the extension of their own business, but we were in minority and so could make no provision for it. Secondly I sympathize with people who are landlords and have tenants in their residences. Many cases have been brought to my notice where landlords and tenants living in one and the same house have strained relations. Since landlords cannot get their houses vacated many tenants can harass their landlords. I wanted to have some provision made for such cases so that in special cases the landlords may get their houses vacated from unpleasant tenants. The point was considered in the Select Committee but to avoid abuses we kept quiet. Now, that this Bill is to take the form of an act it was my duty to invite your attention to all these lacunas. In spite of these I think it is a fair measure for landlords, tenants and sub-tenants. No matter how fair a measure is it cannot be useful until the landlords and tenants observe the fact that they have to live together and these days of trouble mutual tolerance is necessary. Sir, I think the greatest evil which the War has inflicted is universal corruption and tension in mutual relations. Landlords and tenants who had always pleasant relations have lost those relations and there is now ill-feeling among them. The Honourable Members must have made an estimate of this by those deputations of both parties which waited upon them. This bad situation is a product of War. If the landlords and the tenants will try to understand each other's view-point, know of each other's difficulty they will have but very little need of resorting to this Act.

Sir, in conclusion I once more thank the Government and those members of the House who, though they had no direct connection with this bill, took interest and pains in its deliberations. I hope that the Bill will fulfill the purpose for which it has been enacted.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is—

“That the Bill, as amended be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, it was decided that the House should sit late only for the purpose of passing the Rent Bill.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable the President has said that it must be finished by half past four, and the Honourable Members who have spoken after half past four ought to have known it before that.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I make the position clear? In the morning the idea was that the Rent Control Bill must be finished and for that, if necessary, we must sit till six. In the afternoon when we were in the midst of discussion, the Honourable the President was pleased to give out 5 P. M. that it should be finished before 4-30. It was an expectation and we respected that expectation by cutting short many of the discussions.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: In the morning the Honourable the Leader of the House said that if the other two Bills could also be finished he would be happy. Therefore the motion by the Honourable the Commerce Member merely to refer the Bill to Select Committee is something about which it behoves this House to keep patient and permit him to do so.

CONTROL OF SHIPPING BILL

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar (Commerce Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the control of shipping be taken into consideration"

I am aware that notice has been given to refer this Bill to a Select Committee and I am going to accept the reference to Select Committee. I think the House will not, therefore, require a long statement from me on the objects of the Bill. I may mention that control on shipping was exercised during the war through the powers vested in Government under Rule 65 of the Defence of India Rules. When the Defence of India Rules ceased to be in force on the 30th September 1946, these powers were continued by Ordinance No. XX of 1946. The powers under this Ordinance will expire on the 25th of March 1947. It is therefore proposed that sub-clause (3) of clause 1 of the Bill should be amended to provide that this Bill shall be deemed to have come into force from the 25th of March 1947.

Coming to the object of the Bill I may mention that abnormal conditions existing even now require that the movement by sea of certain essential commodities like coal, foodstuff and other essential cargoes should be controlled. This was being done under a system of licensing and the same method has been suggested in clause 3 of the Bill. I have received some telegrams from the shipping companies concerned in this connection and it appears that they want to clear some doubts as to whether the provisions of this Bill will be used in any manner for preventing the Indian shipping companies from taking their due share in the overseas trade. I want to make it perfectly clear that far from discouraging the Indian shipping companies from taking their share in the overseas trade, it is the policy of the Government to encourage them to have more share in the overseas trade and Government give the assurance that the provisions of this Bill will not be utilised for the purpose of restricting their activities.

Another important provision made in the Bill is about the control over fares and freight rates. These provisions have been introduced with a double object in view. The fixation of fares and freight rates will be used on the one hand for the prevention of the exploitation of the public by the shipping companies and on the other hand to prevent rate wars and other forms of wasteful competition which may be used against the Indian shipping companies by certain other non-Indian shipping companies.

These in brief are the main objects with which this Bill has been introduced in the House. A few changes have been made in the provisions which were in force before. The Defence of India Rules apply to all the vessels, while this Bill will apply only to vessels of not less than 150 tons. One point raised by the Indian shipping companies is whether their representatives will be given a hearing before Government takes a final decision about the fixation of the rates and fares. I do not know how any doubt can be entertained on this subject, as Government must necessarily hear the parties concerned before reaching their decision and the most valuable information can certainly be had from the shipping companies themselves. They will be given a hearing before the Government decision is reached. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the control of shipping be taken into consideration"

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput Non-Muham-nadan Rural): Sir, I move.

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Sri T. V. Satakopachari, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel, Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer, Mr. Tamuzuddin Khan, Dr. P. G. Solanki, and the Mover, with

instructions to report on or before the 5th April 1947, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of ~~Sri~~ N. V. Gadgil, Sri T. V. Satakopachari, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Mr. M. A. F. ~~Khanna~~, Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer, Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, Dr. P. G. Solanki, and the mover, with instructions to report on or before the 5th April 1947, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 24th March 1947.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 24th March, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Twelve Noon, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

THROWING OPEN OF THE COTTON EXPORT TRADE TO ALL EXPORTERS

1122. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if the Government of India propose to consider the advisability of throwing open the cotton export trade to all exporters instead of restricting the quotas to 'established shippers' and to fixed destinations?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Ghundrigar: In view of the internal demand for cotton by the textile mills in the country, the Government regret that they are unable to remove all restrictions on the export of raw cotton.

If the quantity allowed for export is to be limited, it is necessary to lay down rules under which the exports are to be allowed. Further, these rules have to be framed so as to restrict the discretionary powers of the officers to the minimum. Under the existing regulations, quotas are not restricted to established shippers only, but all exporters of cotton since April 1936 are eligible for the grant of a quota. 75 per cent of the quota is allowed to be exported by 'established' shippers, that is, those who shipped cotton during April 1936—March 1939 and 25 per cent. by 'non-established' shippers, i.e., those who shipped cotton during the three years ending 20th November 1946. The quotas remaining unclaimed on account of those 'established' shippers who are no longer in business, are to be distributed equitably between the 'established' and 'non-established' shippers and also to shippers who have exported cotton during the intervening period, i.e., 1st April 1939 to 20th November 1946. Quotas are granted to all shippers on the basis of their exports during their respective basic periods.

Government has already decided to abolish the system of destination allocations.

CONFERENCE REGARDING THE DAMODAR VALLEY SCHEME

1123. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state the final outcome of the conference, which was held in connection with the Damodar Valley Scheme?

(b) What is the total estimated cost and how is it proposed to be met, or divided among the Government of India and the Bihar and Bengal Provincial Governments?

(c) How much expenditure has the Centre so far incurred and how much is it proposed to incur in the year 1947-48?

(d) Who are the officials directly concerned with the Damodar Valley Project and what are their qualifications and remuneration?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) A reference is solicited to replies to part (a) of question No. 176 and to parts (a) and (b) of question No. 399 by the Honourable Member, Babu Ram Narayan Singh.

* Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 55 crores. The allocation as between the Centre, Bengal and Bihar has not been finally settled and will be considered at the next Conference proposed to be held on 26th April 1947.

(c) About Rs. 8½ lakhs have already been spent on surveys and investigations. The expenditure during the year 1947-48 will depend on the outcome of the Conference proposed to be held on the 26th April 1947.

(d) A list furnishing the necessary information is laid on the table of the House

List showing the names, qualifications and remuneration of officers directly concerned with the Damodar Valley Project

S. No.	Name of Officer	Qualifications	Remuneration
			Rs. a. p.
	<i>I. Civil and Hydraulic Section</i>		
1	Mr. W. L. Voorduin, Hydro-Electric Member, C.T.P.B.	Full Member, American Society of Civil Engineering Principal Planning Officer, T. V. A. and C. E.	4,315 0 0 p.m.
2	Mr. R. J. Mattson, Project Officer, Grade 'A'.	B.E. (Stockholm), M.E.I. (Canada), M.E.I. (Sweden).	3,000 0 0 p.m.
3	Mr. D. C. Baxter, Project Officer, Grade 'B'.	B.E. (Civil), B.Sc. Eng. (Lond.), M.I.E. (India), A.M.I.C.E. (London).	1,763 0 0 p.m.
4	Mr. K. M. Chinnappa (Project Officer)	B.E., A.M.I.E. (India)	999 0 0 p.m.
5	Mr. N. M. Chakravarty (do.)	B.E. (Civil)	470 0 0 p.m.
6	Mr. K. Chakravarti (do.)	B.E. (Civil)	470 0 0 p.m.
7	Mr. H. Ramaswamy (do.)	B.Sc., B.E.	470 0 0 p.m.
	<i>II. Electrical Section</i>		
8	Mr. H. M. Mathews, Chairman, C.T.P.B.	D.F.H., M.I.E.E.	4,750 0 0 p.m.
9	Mr. R. M. Legate, Project Officer, Grade 'A'.	M.Sc.E.E., M.A.I.E.E., Prof. Eng. (Ontario).	3,000 0 0 p.m.
10	Mr. J. N. Goswami, Project Officer, Grade 'B'.	Diploma in Mech. & Electrical Engineering (Sibpur), Associate in Mech. Engineering (B.E. College).	1,263 0 0 p.m.
11	Mr. A. K. Bhaumik, Project Officer	B.Sc. (Ced.), B.Sc. Eng. (Lond.), A.M.I.E.E.	1,134 0 0 p.m.
12	Mr. R. P. Patel do.	B.E. (Civil), B.Sc. (Elec.), (Lond.), A.C.G.I.	884 8 0 p.m.
13	Mr. N. J. Balsani do.	B.Sc. (Eng.), A.M.I.E., (India).	884 8 0 p.m.

S. No.	Name of Officer	Qualifications	Remuneration
			Rs. a. p.
14	Mr. S. C. Varshneya, Project Officer	L.M.E. (Hons.), B.Sc. (Hons.), (Eng.), A.M.I.E.E. (Lond.), A.M.I.E. (India).	884 8 0 p.m.
15	Mr. H. R. Varmas do.	A.M.I.E.E. (London)	758 0 0 p.m.
16	Mr. M. K. Gopalengyer do.	B.Sc., (Hons.), Diploma in Electrical Technology of the Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore).	758 0 0 p.m.
<i>III. Irrigation Section</i>			
17	R. B. A. N. Khosla	Indian Service of Engineers, Formerly Chief Engineer (Irrigation), Punjab	3,750 0 0 p.m.
18	Mr. Man Singh, Director, CWINC	Indian Service of Engineers, Superintending Engineer, Bengal.	2,400 0 0 p.m.
19	Mr. M. B. Rangaswamy, Assistant Director, CWINC.	B. E. Madras Service of Engineers.	1,054 0 0 p.m.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Secretary kindly inform the House whether this is a productive scheme or a protective one? If it is a protective one, what is the nature of the return which is expected on this enterprise and the outlay of 55 crores?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The total of 55 crores refers to three main aspects of this project—flood control, irrigation and electricity. Now, there are a number of different ways in which the cost of the project could be allocated to these three main items; but the one which is generally followed in most of these schemes in America is to find out what is the separate cost for each purpose and also what would be the cost for that particular purpose if the scheme was only meant for that particular purpose and then to apportion how the total cost should be allocated as between these three. In that manner, it has been ascertained—this is purely a rough calculation—that about Rs. 14 crores may be allocated to flood control, Rs. 13 crores to irrigation and the balance, roughly 28 crores to electricity. The estimates show that the electric part of the scheme will be self-financing, that is, 28 crores. The irrigation part of it will be more or less self-financing, depending, of course, on what we charge for irrigation. The flood control part of it will be entirely protective. There will be hardly any income accruing from flood control except indirectly by way of protection of crops, prevention of famines and so

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Secretary, give this House an estimate of the amount of power which is expected to be generated with the outlay of 28 crores?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: With the help of thermal units, the power is estimated at 800,000 kilowatts. Out of this, about half will be hydro-electric and half will be thermal.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Honourable Secretary worked out the detailed schemes of this expenditure of 55 crores? Will he lay on the table of the House or circulate among the Members the whole scheme giving definitely the amount of yield from that particular scheme? I would also like to know whether the expenditure under the irrigation and power and other things will be reserved for cotton only or will it also be utilised for other agricultural products?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The preliminary memorandum was published in 1945 and I believe copies of it were laid on the table of the House. As regards the other details, they are still more or less in the drafting stage. They have not yet been finalised; but we hope that they will be finalised on the 26th of this month. I was not able to follow the last portion of the Honourable Member's question.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will other agricultural products be also benefited by this scheme besides cotton?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Certainly. Irrigation will benefit all the crops and not any particular crop.

Seth Govind Das: What would be the acreage of land which is expected to be irrigated by this scheme?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: About 800,000 acres

Sri V. C. Vellingri Gounder: Considering the amount of money that is going to be spent on the development of electricity in this area, may I ask whether there will be sufficient scope for the consumption of that electricity in that area?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The demand in that particular area is so vast that this 300,000 kilowatts will be a mere fleabite

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that this scheme is likely to cost 55 crores, will the Government of India take steps to place the whole scheme and secure the approval of the Legislature for that scheme before it is launched?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: As soon as this Conference on the 26th of April is over, Government expect that there will be a cut-and-dried scheme which can be placed before the Legislature and at that stage it is contemplated that a Bill to constitute a Damodar Valley Corporation will be placed before this House and the Legislature will be asked to pass that into an Act. At that stage, of course, full details will be placed before the House.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: While this ambitious project is being actively considered by the Government in all its aspects, have Government done anything so far to solve the difficult problem of finding the necessary technical staff in India?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Every effort is being made to find the technical staff, but the shortage of trained personnel is well-known to this House and it is not an easy problem to solve in a very short time. But every effort is being made to send out our men to foreign countries for training. Possibly, to start with, we may have to get some men from abroad, but there is no rough and ready or easy solution of this problem

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know whether Government have any definite scheme under consideration for the purpose of recruiting the necessary staff either in this country or from abroad?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: So far as this scheme is concerned, we do not yet know what will be the agency for designing and construction of these dams. That is a matter which will be discussed with the provinces on 26th April. The Damodar Valley Corporation will then be set up. The present idea is that it is for this Corporation to decide how the scheme will be proceeded with. The Government at present have certainly not got the staff to implement this scheme. It is a question of finding out that staff. Whether the Damodar Valley Corporation will find men from abroad or will get men here, that is more than I can say. It is a question of making an effort and I hope we shall succeed.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: How much money has already been spent on this scheme before any sanction has been obtained?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: About 8½ lakhs.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: I understand the Damodar Valley scheme will be worked out in Bihar for irrigation purposes. How will it help the growth of cotton or any cotton research in that particular area?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I do not know that it is meant to help cotton. It is meant to help all crops. I do not know whether cotton will be included. That depends upon the Agricultural department of the Province.

SANCTIONED HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEMES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF WAR

1124. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state how many hydro-electric schemes have been sanctioned in British India and the Indian States since the beginning of the war?

(b) What is the total estimated outlay on such schemes?

(c) What is the total estimated cost of equipment to be imported from abroad?

(d) How much of this equipment has been on order and how much has already arrived?

(e) Which of these schemes are expected to be completed and to function during the next three years?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Fifteen hydro-electric schemes have been sanctioned since the beginning of the war. In addition, the extension of five existing schemes has also been sanctioned. A list of the names of the schemes is laid on the table of the House.

(b) The total estimated outlay on the sanctioned schemes would be approximately Rs. 78.25 crores.

(c) About Rs. 19.51 crores.

(d) About 51 per cent. of the equipment is now on order and 9 per cent. has already arrived.

(e) All the schemes excepting the Machkund, Bhandardara, Rohri Canal, Pykara, Poringalkuthu, Radhanagari, Dochi and Gondal Schemes are expected to be completed during the next three years.

Scheme sanctioned	Capital Outlay (lakhs)	Cost of equipment to be imported (lakhs)	Cost of plant on order (lakhs)	Equipment arrived (lakhs)
PART A				
NEW SCHEMES				
<i>Madras</i>				
1. Machkund Project* . . .	752 00	93 00	40 00	..
2. Moyar Scheme . . .	268 00	60 00	60 00	...
<i>Punjab</i>				
3. Rasul Scheme . . .	689 05	274 16	274 16	.
4. Nangal Project . . .	1744 00	625 00	..	..
<i>United Provinces</i>				
5. Sirsa Scheme . . .	925 00	100 00	100 00	.
6. Mohanmadpur Scheme . .	55 00	41 00	41 00	...
<i>Bombay</i>				
7. Bhandara & Hydro-electric* Scheme.	399 00	.	..	...
8. *Rohri Canal Hydro-Electric Scheme	165 00	.	.	...
INDIAN STATES				
<i>Hyderabad</i>				
9. Nizamagar Scheme . . .	85 91	55 56	55 56	...
<i>Kolhapur</i>				
10. Radhanagri Scheme* . . .	161 00	30 00	30 00	...
<i>Mysore</i>				
11. Jog Scheme (First Stage) . .	565 50	140 00	140 00	110 00
<i>Cochin</i>				
12. Poringalkuthu Scheme* . .	100 00	25 00	5 00	...
<i>Gondal</i>				
13. Gondal Scheme* . . .	50 00	10 00	...	...
<i>Mamapur</i>				
14. Manipur Scheme . . .	3 50	2 00	2 00	...
<i>Patiala</i>				
15. Doobi Hydro-Electric* Project .	500 00	80 00	...	...

Scheme sanctioned	Capital Outlay (lakhs)	Cost of equipment to be imported (lakhs)	Cost of plant on order (lakhs)	Equipment arrived (lakhs)
PART B				
EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING SCHEME				
<i>Madras</i>				
1. Papanasam	39 40	10 00	10 00	
2. Pykara*	413 79	63 00	7 00	...
<i>Punjab</i>				
3. Jogindernagar . . .	99 52	42 80	..	...
INDIAN STATES				
<i>Mysore</i>				
4. Jog Scheme (Second Stage) .	500 00	200 00	134 00	...
<i>Travancore</i>				
5. Pallivasal Scheme (Second Stage)	310 00	100 00	100 00	65 00
Total (in lakhs of rupees)	7825 67	1951 52	998 72 or 51 2%	175 00 or 8 9%

NOTE.—All the Scheme except those marked thus * are expected to be completed during the next three years.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government have taken care, and if so, in what manner to see that the prices for capital goods in connection with these schemes are not inflated and that they are not very high and to give us, if not now, perhaps later in the session some idea of the increase over prewar prices which have been borne by these orders?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: All these are provincial or State schemes. None of the orders have been placed by the Government of India; orders have been placed by the provinces or the States concerned. The Electricity Commissioner with the Government of India is generally asked for his advice—which may or may not be accepted. I have not got the information which my Honourable friend desires. I will try to get the same and supply it to the Honourable Member later on.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Considering the very heavy outlay of 78 crores out of which 19 crores are to be spent in importing equipments from abroad, may we not have some little report on this subject indicating the prices paid or may be paid by the Provinces and the States—that is also Indian money—and may we not have a statement given to us indicating the prices paid and their corresponding prewar price so that we may know what is the excess of Indian money spent on these huge orders?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: As I said, I will try to collect this information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Machkund project included in this?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government convene a conference of provincial governments and States which are interested in these schemes and help them to pool all their orders and place the orders between these different countries so that they can get the best possible material through the good offices of the Government of India?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The point will be considered. The good offices of the Government of India are already at the disposal of the States and the provinces.

Seth Govind Das: Are there any more hydro-electric schemes under contemplation?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: My Honourable friend may please await my answer to Question No. 1128 coming later on.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Do the Government of India bear any share of the expenses of these schemes?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: So far as the sanctioned schemes are concerned, I believe that the Government of India do not bear any share of the expenditure. But in connection with the Damodar Valley Project and some of the bigger schemes which are under consideration, there is a proposal that the Government of India should bear some part of the capital expenditure.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: So far as these schemes are concerned, are these included in the post war electrical development schemes for which the Government of India will bear certain share of expenditure?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The Government of India are not bearing any portion of the capital expenditure. It is quite possible that individual provinces may come up to Government of India for loans to bear the cost of these schemes and to that extent they would be certainly part of the post war development schemes. The Government of India will be giving loans in accordance with the terms which they have laid down for post war developments.

Seth Govind Das: Are Government of India going to bear any portion of expenditure over the Rewa scheme about which I raised a question on the other day?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: It is still in process of consideration and nothing has been decided as to who is going to bear the expenses. The information of the Government of India is that the U P. Government are going to bear the entire expenditure, possibly coming to the Centre only for loans.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the dispute about Machkund project been settled and if so, how? Are funds to be placed by the Government of India at the disposal of the provincial governments to be treated as advances or subsidies?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The Machkund project is no longer in dispute. Final agreement was reached between Madras and Orissa and there is no further dispute as far as I am aware. About the money to be paid by the Government of India, whether it is a loan or subsidy, I do not think it is a subsidy, but money may be advanced as a loan on the usual terms governing such advances from the Centre to the provinces. As I said at the beginning in connection with the Damodar valley project, there is a proposal that there should be a subsidy in addition to a loan; but that matter has not been finalised and when it is finalised, it will come up before this House for sanction.

Sri V. O. Vellingiri Govnder: Since all these big schemes originate from the provincial governments, in what way does the Central Government come into the picture for consideration of these matters?

Mr. President: As the Honourable Member replied, the Government of India are giving advice.

SANCTION OF PROVINCIAL AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

1125. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state in which cases irrigation projects are entirely Provincial and in which cases the Central Government's sanction has to be taken?

(b) How many such schemes have come up for sanction and from which Provinces?

(c) What is the position when any irrigation scheme affects partly British India and partly an Indian State?

(d) How many such schemes have been referred to the Government of India for their approval and which are they?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) The subject of water, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power forms items 19 of the Provincial Legislative List under the Government of India Act. But where provinces require financial assistance from the Centre, either in the shape of loan or grant, as also where more than one province is concerned, a reference is generally made to the Government of India who scrutinise the schemes and give financial assistance if they are satisfied that the schemes are financially and technically sound. The sanction of the Government of India is also required in respect of "Grow More Food Projects" to which the Centre gives financial assistance.

(b) A list of "Grow More Food Schemes" which have come up for sanction from various provinces during the last four years is placed on the table.

(c) This is a matter for negotiations between the provinces and states concerned. The Government of India and the Crown Representative are also consulted where necessary.

(d) No such schemes have been specifically referred to the Government of India for their approval in recent years, but questions of water rights and submersion of land have been referred to the Government of India and the Crown Representative e.g., Tungabhadra Project concerning Madras, Hyderabad and Mysore and Bhakra dam project concerning Punjab, Sind and Bilaspur State and so on.

Statement showing number of Irrigation Schemes sanctioned by the Government of India in pursuance of the 'Grow More Food' campaign

S. No.	Name of Province	No. of schemes sanctioned in				Total
		1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	
1	Madras	—	32	1	8	41
2	Bombay	—	2	7	—	9
3	Bengal	17	13	19	126	175
4	U. P.	1	2	1	1	5
5	Bihar	3	1	1	1	
6	C. P. & Ber. r	2	1	3	3	9
7	Assam	1	1	1	1	4
8	N. W. F. P.	1	13	10	7	31
9	Orissa	—	3	8	8	19
10	Punjab	—	1	—	1	2
Grand Total						301

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Government of India are maintaining a very elaborate service for advising provincial governments on the matter of irrigation. Would the Honourable Secretary tell us the nature of the work done by the Central Irrigation and Water Board and the nature of the advice which it offers to the provincial governments before these projects are finally taken up by the provincial governments?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The Board was started only a very short time ago and there have been great difficulties in recruitment of staff. But with whatever staff is available every effort is made to scrutinise all schemes which come up and advise provinces whether they are technically sound and financially likely to be remunerative. The nature of the advice depends on the examination of each particular scheme and how it strikes the expert. It is very difficult for me to say what advice is given, it all depends on the merits of each individual scheme.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that Indian State Governments also approach the Government of India for advice because they have not the highly skilled personnel which the Government of India have? And is it a fact that advice is also given to the Indian States with regard to their own smaller irrigation schemes?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir, advice is available both to provinces and States.

COST OF CONVERTING THE LIBRARY HALL OF THE INDIAN LEGISLATURE INTO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY HALL

1126. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state

(a) the amount spent by Government in converting the Library Hall of the Indian Legislature into the Constituent Assembly Hall along with the cost of furniture, electric fittings and other fixtures,

(b) the amount spent on the first session of the Constituent Assembly,

(c) the amount paid as allowances to the Members of the Constituent Assembly for the whole period of the First Session;

(d) the monthly expenditure incurred for the Secretariat of the Constituent Assembly by way of salaries of the entire staff,

(e) the salary fixed for the President of the Constituent Assembly; and

(f) whether this salary is fixed after taking into account his salary which he already draws by virtue of his appointment as Member of the Interim Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) The expenditure incurred by Government in making necessary alterations to the Library Hall of the Indian Legislature, and providing furniture and other fittings, is as follows—

Cost of building portion—Rs. 26,595.

Cost of electric fittings—Rs. 1,75,865.

Cost of furniture and other fittings—Rs. 2,02,100.

Total—Rs. 4,04,560

(b) (c) and (d) I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me on the 22nd February to the Honourable Sardar Mangal Singh's Question No. 502. The Auditor-General who audits the accounts of the Constituent Assembly will in due course arrange for the insertion of a suitable note in the appropriation accounts giving details of the amounts spent by the Constituent Assembly.

(e) and (f). The President of the Constituent Assembly gets no salary in respect of that office.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know if these works were carried out departmentally?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: In view of the fact that the Library now occupies only the outer circle of the main hall, is it not possible to keep it undisturbed even when the Constituent Assembly is in session because that Assembly does not use it?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the Honourable Member means by "keeping it undisturbed". It is there and it is totally undisturbed unless some member goes there and takes out a book and disturbs it.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is the Honourable Member aware that when the Constituent Assembly is in session the Library which is now housed in the outer circle has to remove its books and furniture to some other place and when the session is over they have to be taken back?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not exactly know what happens, but we shall certainly try to meet the convenience of members who want to refer to the Library.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, is the Honourable Member aware that while the Constituent Assembly was in session some members wanted some books from the Library and they were told that some books and furniture had been removed to other places and they were not properly docketed and sorted out and kept in proper places, and that it would take some time to bring the books out?

Mr. President: I am afraid the Honourable Member is not aware of the facts. The question of the Library came to me and I stated that while the Constituent Assembly is in session the lobby of this Assembly may be made use of; the Librarian may sit here and if any member wants a book and wishes to read it quietly he can sit here instead of going to the Library while the Constituent Assembly is in session.

Mr. Sasanka Sekar Sanyal: Since the Library is now housed in the outer circle which is not used by the Constituent Assembly at all, is it not possible to keep it there without shifting the books and furniture while the Constituent Assembly is in session?

Mr. President: Except perhaps a small number of reference books, there has been no shifting.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Even these things create confusion.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member's information is not correct.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS IN GERMANY

1127. **Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state what financial and other assistance has been given during the year 1946 to Indians in Germany?

(b) What is the extent of the support and relief given to Indians in Germany by the Indian Military Mission in Berlin since the cessation of hostilities?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Financial assistance has been given to any Indian nationals who applied to the Indian Military Mission for it in cash and by payment of hospital bills. No application from any Indian for financial assistance has been refused by the Mission. Advances have also been given on behalf of the Government of India by the Indian Military Mission and by the High Commissioner for India in London to cover the cost of repatriation by sea or air as the case might be, and incidental expenses on the journey.

(b) For a full statement of the general support and relief given by the Indian Military Mission in Berlin to Indians in Germany I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Press Note issued recently of which a copy was laid on the table of the House in connection with Question No. 718 by Mr G. B. Dani, which I answered on the 4th March 1947.

EXTENSION OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER IN INDIA

1128. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement on the proposals, to extend the Hydro-Electric Power in the country?

(b) Have Government considered the question of cost of these new Schemes?

(c) What will be the saving in coal by use of Hydro-Electric power for lighting purposes?

(d) Do Government propose to extend the use of electric power so as to enable the villages of India to have the benefit of cheap electricity?

(e) Have Government received any comprehensive scheme for the whole country with one universal class of machinery, which will produce one universal class of current and which will provide also the towns and villages with electric power lighting?

(f) If so, do Government propose to place it on the table of the House?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement placed on the table of the House to-day in reply to part (a) of Mr. Manu Subedar's Starred Question No. 1124. In addition to the schemes mentioned in that statement 20 hydro-electric power projects are at present under investigation by the various Provinces and States in India.

(b) The responsibility for implementing these schemes rests mainly with Provincial and Indian State Governments. These Governments will doubtless consider the various aspect of the projects including the cost before deciding to implement the schemes.

(c) The power consumed for lighting purposes only, is a small fraction (approx. 11 per cent) of the total sold for all purposes and the saving effected by the use of hydro-electric power for lighting purposes alone would therefore be very small.

(d) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to parts (a) and (b) of Pt. Sri Krishna Dutt Palwal's Starred Question No. 840 on the 11th March, 1947, and to the Broadcast talk given by the Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha referred to therein.

(e) No Sir

(f) Does not arise

FOREIGN MARKETS FOR INDIAN TEXTILE GOODS

1129. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state—

(a) the names of the countries to which India has been exporting manufactured textile goods during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware that a good market for Indian textile goods has developed in Australia in recent years;

(c) whether it is the policy of Government to foster India's foreign trade in textiles and to encourage its growth; and

(d) if so, the steps that Government propose to take in this connection?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) I lay a statement on the table on the presumption that the information is required for cotton piece-goods as well as goods manufactured from them.

(b) Yes

(c) and (d) Yes However, in view of the present difficult supply position of textiles in this country, it has not been possible to permit free exports of cotton textiles outside India They are therefore regulated on a quota basis and allowed up to the level of destination quotas which are fixed after taking into account all considerations, including the supply position in India, and the relative importance of individual markets

Names of countries to which India has been exporting manufactured Indian Textile Goods during the last three years (1944, 1945 and 1946)

(1) Abyssinia (2) Aden and Dependencies (3) Afghanistan (4) Anglo Egyptian Sudan (5) Arabia (6) Arab Sheikhdoms in the Persian Gulf (Bahrein Muscat, Dubai, Kuwait Gwader) (7) Australia (8) Belgian Congo (9) British East Africa (10) British Pacific Islands (11) British West Africa (12) Burma (13) Ceylon (14) China (15) Cyprus (16) Egypt (17) Free French Africa (18) French North Africa (19) French Somaliland (20) French West Africa (21) Hongkong (22) Iran (23) Iraq (24) Italian East Africa (25) Madagascar (26) Malaya (27) Mauritius (28) Nepal (29) Netherland East Indies (30) New Zealand (31) Palestine (32) Portuguese East Africa (33) Reunion (34) Rhodesia (35) Seychelles (36) Syria and Lebanon (37) Transjordan (38) Turkey (39) Union of South Africa (now no exports) (40) United Kingdom

Prof. M. G. Ranga: Have Government examined the relative prices at which our textiles are purchased by the Australian people and the prices at which they are sold in Australia itself?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Prices in Australia are controlled and they give only a fair margin of profit to the importer

Mr. Mann Subedar: Will Government give due weight to the other consideration than the one which is urged in this question namely whether some of the goods which are badly required in this country and in which black marketing is rampant could not be imported in exchange for cloth which we give? Will Government give due consideration to that factor also instead of the factor referred to in this question namely, that India must build up its own textile market and export market for the future?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: So far as quota for export to Australia is concerned not only the factor mentioned in part (b) of the question but also the factor that Australia supplies some essential goods to India is taken into account

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: What are the agencies through which these textiles are sent to Australia and other countries?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It is on a trade to trade basis

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it a fact that the trade agents who sell these textiles outside make an inordinately huge profit in proportion to the prices here?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: It is not so in the case of Australia because, as I said, the prices in Australia are controlled and they give only a small margin of profit to the importer

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: What is the position in regard to other countries to which textiles are exported?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The exporter at this end is required to charge only controlled prices from importers from those countries where there is price control

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will Government consider the question of examining this proposition with a view to see that the export is done in such a way as to make available a share of this profit to the Government of India?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: That is a very difficult proposition.

Seth Govind Das: Are there any such countries where our textile goods are exported and where there is no control of prices?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There are countries, in which there is no control over the prices of textile goods exported from India.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know from the Honourable Member whether Government have got any special officer to scrutinize in each case and see whether the article for which an export licence is given is an article which we can spare and also to see whether the articles which we import in place of those articles are the articles which we require very urgently?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: These questions are examined by the Inter-departmental Committee, because it requires a lot of examination.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Our belief is that some of the articles which we require very badly are exported so that people in those countries are in an advantageous position than those who actually manufacture those goods.

Mr. President: Next question.

PROVISION OF BETTER HOUSING FACILITIES FOR INDUSTRIAL LABOUR

1130. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India in consultation with the various Provincial Governments propose to introduce any scheme for providing better housing facilities for industrial labour, and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of sponsoring a hire-purchase scheme with a view to providing such facilities?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Provincial Governments have been advised to consider and draw up such schemes where the urgency is so pressing as to necessitate implementation even with the present abnormally high building costs.

(b) Government welcomes such a scheme in principle but are afraid that with the prevalent high building costs a scheme of this nature may not be practicable at present.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that every Provincial Government is complaining to the Central Government with regard to the lack of facilities by the Central Governments for making available steel quota, timber and various other articles, and more particularly transport for the building material?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is not for me to give a reply to all these questions, but I may draw the attention of my Honourable friend to the fact of which he is already aware that there is a genuine shortage of all these things, and the Government cannot help as long as the production is not speeded up.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that so many new industries are being set up, will the Government think it advisable to have a definite plan of industrial labour quarters in all these new industries, and will they advise the Provincial Governments in this respect?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: We have got a plan for industrial housing, and in the last Provincial Labour Ministers' Conference we discussed it and requested the Provincial Governments, in view of the scarcity of building materials and the high costs, to examine such urgent schemes in their respective provinces which should be implemented very soon. We are still expecting replies from the Provincial Governments in order to co-ordinate all those schemes.

Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable Member inform this House whether the Tripartite Labour Conference did not discuss this question and whether they recommended setting up of housing boards for industrial workers?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I fail to understand how a housing board is going to help in the matter when there is a scarcity of building materials and the work is not being held up due to lack of intention or determination on the part of Government but due to lack of building materials.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that buildings will have to be built for these new industries which are going to be established, will the Government see that along with these buildings proper labour quarters are also built, and will Government provide a definite plan for such quarters?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, Sir. I propose to bring very soon before this House a Bill to amend the Factories Act. One of the provisions in that Bill will be that an industrialist who wants to start a new factory will have to take a licence from the appropriate Government and one of the terms of that licence will be that he will have to build quarters for labourers as well.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Having regard to the difficulties of housing generally and the new provisions which the Honourable Member proposes to introduce, will Government consider the advisability of having a housing ministry or some other body at the Centre who will examine the difficulties because the difficulties of the building trade over-step the bounds of one particular department? They are covered by many departmental functions and at present the departmental people find it difficult to cope with this work. Will Government examine this question?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is very difficult to answer a question of this nature.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to Seth Govind Das's question, may I just draw his attention to the fact that the Government also are employers of labour, and ask whether the steps which are taken by the Government to provide labour quarters will also be binding on the Government? May I also know whether the Honourable Member is aware of the suggestion made on the floor of this House that it should be the responsibility of the employers to provide housing accommodation to their menial servants?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have already replied that question. In the proposed amendment of the Factories Act, this provision is going to be made. As regards the Central Government undertakings, the House is already aware that I have a scheme of building 50,000 houses for the coal miners during the course of the next five years. The Railway Board is also going to take up the scheme for providing quarters for their employees. Other departments are also being insisted upon by the Labour Department to provide suitable quarters for their employees.

Sri V. O. Vellingri Gounder: May I ask whether the Honourable Member will also consider including in his scheme the feasibility of using pre-fabricated houses as is being done in Western countries?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: All these questions are being examined and we are striving to see how cheapest we can provide accommodation to the labourers that may be regarded as a reasonable accommodation.

INDIAN CONSULATES AND EMBASSIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1131. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing:

(i) the names of foreign countries other than U.S.A., U.S.S.R., and Great Britain in which Indian Consulates are in existence;

(ii) the status of these Consulates as compared to the Embassies of independent sovereign states in the said countries; and

(iii) the measures that the Government of India propose to take in order to make these Consulates equal in status and authority to the Embassies of Sovereign States?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (i) Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Siam, China, and French Indo-China

(ii) and (iii) The Honourable Member appears to be under some misapprehension. The functions and status of Consulates are entirely distinct and different from those of Embassies. Where there is a Diplomatic Mission, whether an Embassy or a Legation, Consular posts are subordinate to it. The Government of India are actively pursuing plans for the establishment of Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad to which, when they are established, Indian Consulates will be subordinate

CONTROL ON EXPORT OF URANIUM AND THORIUM

1132. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the export of Uranium and Thorium from India is controlled and if so, the nature of the control;

(b) whether there was any export of these metals in the year, 1946; and

(c) if so, what were the quantities exported, and what are the countries to which they were exported?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Yes. Export of Uranium and Thorium is prohibited, but export of Monazite sand which contains Thorium was permitted during the war in consultation with the Secretary of State. It has now been decided not to consult the Secretary of State but to consult the Works, Mines and Power Department.

(b) and (c) No, but 227 tons of Monazite was exported to United Kingdom and 400 tons to United States of America in the first ten months of 1946. Government have decided to be strict in respect of these exports in future.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO WAR-RELEASED MUSLIMS OF CHITTAGONG TO SETTLE IN PATKOI RANGE

1133. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that land has been allotted to nearly 16,000 war-released Muslims of Chittagong to settle in the plains of Patkoi range in Tirap Frontier tract near Ledo and similarly to the Muslim immigrants in Ballipara frontier tract?

(b) Are Government aware of the anxiety of the Assam tribal people on account of this allotment?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). No, Sir, it is not a fact that land has been allotted in the Tirap and Bahpara Frontier Tracts to immigrants from Chittagong. This rumour was contradicted in an official communique issued by the Governor of Assam on the 20th January 1947 of which a copy is placed upon the table of the House.

* Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Communiqué.

The attention of His Excellency the Governor of Assam has been drawn to reports in the Press, which appear to have been disseminated by a correspondent at Tezpur, that endeavours are being made to settle war-released Muslim labourers in certain excluded areas of Assam. In particular 15,000 such men are alleged to have been given loans by the Political Department and to have been settled in the plains of the Patkoi range in the Tirap Frontier Tract near Ledo.

The whole story is a pure invention. No loans whatever have been given to any labourers, Muslim or other, to enable them to migrate to any tribal area or settle there, nor has any scheme for such settlement been ever considered.

R. W. GODFREY,

Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

SHILLONG;

Dated the 20th January 1947

EXPRESSION OF VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN PEACE TREATIES

1134. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state whether in view of the decision of the Government of India not to express their views on the German and Austrian Peace treaties at the Big Four Deputy Foreign Ministers meeting in London, they propose to submit a Memorandum at the Moscow meeting of the Big Four Foreign Ministers' Council on 10th March 1947?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India have informed the Council of Foreign Ministers that they consider themselves vitally interested in the future settlement of Germany in view of the part played by India in the war against Germany and the intimate connection of the German settlement with the peace of the world. They have asked to have the opportunity to put forward their views, to comment on the views of other States and to ask questions through their representatives during the drafting of the treaty, and to take part in the study of the questions of substance involved.

WELFARE CENTRES FOR THE UPLIFT OF TRIBAL PEOPLE OF ASSAM

1135. *Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state if they propose to open welfare centre for the uplift of the tribal people living in the trans-frontier areas of Assam?

(b) If so, have Government prepared any scheme for such work?

(c) Do Government propose to entrust the Government of Assam to carry on such work?

(d) Do Government propose to open basic educational areas (a) Membas (b) Akas (c) Daffalas (d) Apa Tenang (e) Abor Area (f) Area (g) Tirap Naga Area?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b), and (d). A five year plan for the development of the tribal areas of Assam has been prepared and is under the Government of India's consideration, it contemplates, among other beneficent activities the opening of certain schools, hospitals and agricultural farms in the tribal areas, distributed in the first instance through-out the more accessible regions.

(c) The exact manner in which the development of these areas will proceed will depend ultimately on the Constituent Assembly's views in regard to their future, based on recommendations from the advisory committees and the sub-committees thereof constituted specifically to advise on these areas.

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if the Government of Assam was consulted in the preparation of this scheme which is now under the consideration of the Government of India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not sure whether they were officially consulted or not. But certainly before we proceed much further we should like to consult them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the approximate amount of money which the Government expects to spend on this scheme?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry I cannot give the figures straight off but I could supply it to the Honourable Member after a slight enquiry.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it to be a joint scheme between the Government of India and the Assam Government?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. The tribal areas are directly under the Government of India. There is no question of the Provincial Government coming into the picture.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Could the Honourable Member say whether any schemes are being prepared for the tribes on the western side of India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Of course, not only have they been prepared, but reference has been made to them in this House, and I am sorry that the Honourable Member was perhaps absent when this reference was made here. There is a five-year plan for the North-West Tribal areas and this has been passed on to various development boards. I do not know exactly when it is going to start.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Honourable Member inform the House if the scheme which is now under the consideration of the Government of India was placed before the Standing Committee of the Government of India for External Affairs?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know. But not in my time. These schemes have been incubating for many years and the steps that were taken were previous to our assumption of office.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: May I even now ask the Government of India to consult the Government of Assam before coming to final conclusions?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: We should gladly consult the Government of Assam or anyone else the Honourable Member suggests. But the present position is that the tribal areas are not within the scope of the Government of Assam.

IMPROVEMENT OF CERTAIN TRACKS IN TRANS-FRONTIER AREA OF ASSAM

1136. ***Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state whether Government propose to enlarge and improve the following tracks in the Trans-Frontier Area: (i) from Darranga via Dewangiri to Punakha in Bhutan; (ii) from Odalguri to Rupa and thence to Lhasa?

(b) Are Government aware that this trade route from Odalguri to Lhasa via Rupa will be shorter and easier than the route via Sikkim?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) (i) With the exception of a few miles, the track from Darranga to Punakha via Dewangiri lies wholly within Bhutan, and is therefore not the concern of the Government of India. It is understood however that the Bhutan authorities are endeavouring to improve communications within their territory.

(ii) There is no proposal to improve the track from Odalguri to Rupa, since it lies in difficult hill country. There is however a proposal to improve

the track from Doi Mara through Rupa to Dirang Dzong (on the Indo-Bhutan frontier).

(b) For travellers from many parts of Assam, the route via Rupa to Lhasa would evidently be shorter in total distance than the well-established route via Sikkim. It does not necessarily follow that it would be easier.

Sreejut Robini Kumar Chaudhuri: So far as (a) (i) and (ii) are concerned, is the Honourable Member aware that a contribution is paid by the Government of Bhutan for maintaining a road in the British Indian portion?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know anything about it. I do know that a large contribution is paid by the Government of India to the Government of Bhutan.

EMPLOYMENT TO I. N. A. MEN THROUGH LABOUR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

1137. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of Indian National Army men who have received employment through the Labour Employment Exchanges so far,

(b) whether it is a fact that these Exchanges have some instructions from Government not to help Indian National Army men;

(c) the number of Indian National Army men who have been given the benefit of Government's post-war re-settlement schemes, and

(d) whether it is a fact that a few men who got into the subordinate services were removed as soon as it became known that they belonged to the Indian National Army?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) and (c) The Employment Exchanges do not maintain separate records for the various categories of ex-servicemen assisted by them. From time to time indications have been received that Indian National Army men have been placed in Employment, but figures are not available.

(b) No such instructions have been issued by Government. On the other hand the policy followed by the Resettlement and Employment Organisation is to make no distinction between the I.N.A. men and other categories of ex-servicemen.

(d) Government have no such information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government enquire whether their officers with the various labour exchanges are not actually making any distinction between I.N.A. men and others?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The function of the employment exchanges is to register the names of ex-servicemen and, when there is a demand from any employer, to recommend a panel of men possessing the necessary qualifications. The actual employment is made by the employing authorities and in that the exchanges have no hand. As regards registration and recommendation, no discrimination is made between I.N.A. and other ex-servicemen.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Is the Government aware of the complaints made by the All-India I.N.A. Relief Committee that the I.N.A. men are being refused registration by the labour employment exchanges?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I received a letter from the General Secretary, I.N.A. Relief and Enquiry Committee, and after that I made a thorough enquiry into the matter. I am satisfied, and I gave a reply to that effect that no discrimination in the employment exchanges themselves is made between I.N.A. men and other ex-servicemen.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it a fact that with reference to (b) above some of the men who got into the subordinate service were subsequently removed?

Mr. President: Removed by whom?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: By the authorities who gave the employment. The question (d) was rather general and the Honourable Member has replied in general terms. But the question was whether there was such removal and the further question would be relevant whether some of these people so removed were I.N.A. men.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have not been able to follow the question about subordinate service. Was it under the Government of India? If so, I shall certainly make enquiries if specific instances are given to me.

Sardar Mangal Singh: In view of the public importance of this matter, will the Government of India find out what number of I.N.A. people have been actually taken into service. Will the Honourable Member make a special effort?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is very difficult because at the time of registration in the employment exchanges no record is made whether a particular ex-serviceman is an I.N.A. or otherwise. So it is very difficult often to ascertain whether the employment that has been secured for ex-servicemen through our agencies was for I.N.A. or other categories.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: May I ask whether some directions cannot be given to the Provincial Governments that there should be no ban on I.N.A. men with regard to any employment? They are told by the Labour Exchange officers that because they are from the I.N.A. and the character certificate classes them as grey or black they will not be taken in. This is the biggest difficulty they are facing today.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think in our directive which we issue to the resettlement directorate, we have made it clear—that was the same before—that no distinction is to be made in the employment exchanges between I.N.A. and other ex-servicemen. As regards the category, we do not show in our registers the character of particular ex-servicemen and when we recommend their names to the employers, we do not indicate anything as regards their character. It is for the employer to be satisfied with the character of the particular candidate and it is not for the employment exchanges. I will however keep this suggestion in view and I will bring it to the notice of the Provinces.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member said that it is difficult to know who are the I.N.A. men. Can he find out how many I.N.A. men have been refused employment because they were I.N.A. men?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is very difficult for me even to find out that. I may explain it in detail. If there are two vacancies under a particular employer, he will approach the employment exchange and the employment exchange, if it has got persons with requisite qualifications will forward all the names of the persons that possess the necessary qualifications and the employer is free to make his choice. The persons employed do not take care to report and even those who are refused employment do not take care to report to our exchanges and so it becomes difficult for the exchanges to maintain those figures.

Mr. Maniben Kara: What is the scope of the Employment Exchange? Does it find employment for demobilised personnel only or it functions for technical civilian personnel also?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Primarily the labour exchanges were meant for ex-servicemen but some of the provincial governments have expanded the scope of the employment exchanges in their jurisdiction and civilian personnel are also being assisted through the exchanges.

Miss Maniben Kara: Do the Government of India not propose to continue the labour exchanges even after the work of getting employment for demobilised personnel is completed?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Under the Government of India Act 1935 the question of employment is a provincial responsibility. The present scheme is for five years. I am already in touch with the provincial governments as to whether they want to continue the scheme further than this period and in that case the exchanges will have to be handed over to the provincial governments.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Government of India will issue instructions to their employment exchanges to the effect that the appointing authority should not be influenced by the remarks made on the discharge certificate of the I N A men? That is the chief trouble. The Honourable Member said that there was no discrimination. I agree. But in actual practice the officers are influenced by the remarks made on the discharge certificates, which are of course not favourable and that is the whole trouble. If the Government of India issue instructions to the effect that the officers should not be influenced by the adverse remarks made on the discharge certificates, the trouble of the I N A men will be over.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have already explained the matter in detail. I am afraid that the matter of appointment is not with the employment exchanges, or with the Government of India but it is with the employing authorities, whether they are provincial governments or private employers. I shall examine that question further and see what I can do in the matter.

AGE LIMIT FOR APPLICATIONS FOR COMMISSION FOR EX-SERVICE-MEN

1138. ***Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a general complaint to the effect that although the Employment Exchanges put in advertisements in the newspapers asking employers to recruit their staff through them, the response from the employers has been unsatisfactory,

(b) whether Government are aware that the applications for Commission from Ex-Servicemen above 21 years are turned down despite the fact that the candidates were 'Other Ranks' when they attained the maximum age and had exceeded it only after demobilization; and

(c) whether Government are aware that a large number of Ex-Servicemen become overaged for re-employment because Government recognise the period of approved war service only between September 3rd 1939 and December 31st 1945, and that all Ex-Servicemen were not released by December 31st 1945?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Government consider, that private employers are not utilising to the fullest extent possible the facilities offered by the Employment Exchange Organisation. Efforts are being continued to persuade employers, both through visual and oral publicity and through individual canvassing, to notify their vacancies to Employment Exchanges and there are already indications that private employers are becoming more Exchange-minded.

(b) It is not known to which type of commission the Honourable Member refers. The maximum age limits for the various types of commissions are:

(i) Regular Commissions granted to civilians after passing through the Indian Military Academy under 21 years on the 1st January of the year in which the course at the Indian Military Academy starts;

(ii) Regular Commissions granted to Indian Emergency Commission Officers under 25 years (30 years in the case of Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) on the date the applicants were granted their Emergency Commissions. These age limits are 29 years and 33 years respectively in the case of outstanding officers. In all cases these age limits for this type of commission are waived for Indian Emergency Commission Officers who were serving in the regular I.A. in a military capacity on 1st September 1939 and who have continued so to serve without a break.

(iii) Short Service Commissions—42 years for a 3-year Commission and 35 years for a 5-year Commission.

(c) The age concession is so designed as to render eligible persons who undertook 'war service' before the 15th August 1945 and who were eligible to compete for the civil appointments on the date of entry into war service. The date up to which persons can count their 'war-service' is related to the date on which the candidate is required to satisfy the prescribed age-limits.

All servicemen on war time engagements were not released by 31st December 1945.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MURDER OF MUSLIMS NEAR KOTWALI CHANDNI CHOWK, DELHI

Mr. President: I have received from Mr. Muhammad Nauman notice of an adjournment motion to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the murder of two Muslims very near the Kotwali in Chandni Chowk, Delhi, yesterday and the failure of the police to protect the life and property".

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Home Member). Sir, I received the notice of this adjournment motion after the question hour had commenced this morning and therefore I have not been in a position to ascertain whether the facts stated in the notice are correct. There is in the notice a presumption of the fact of murder. I do not know whether there were murders or there was fracas in which parties were involved or whether it was a matter of self-defence. I know nothing about it. Also I do not know whether these alleged murders were committed near the Kotwali or not; I have no information. It is very difficult to get all this information in one hour.

Mr. President: In that case, the Honourable the Home Member may take some time and ascertain the facts. We will take up the motion tomorrow.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have no objection if the Honourable Member thinks that this kind of motion is in the interest of public peace and will do any public good. I shall ascertain the facts

Mr. President: Let us keep over the matter for the present. The Honourable the Home Member may ascertain the facts and perhaps the Honourable Member who has given notice of the motion may see the Home Member before the House meets tomorrow, so that he may also satisfy himself about the other aspect of the matter which the Honourable the Home Member has mentioned.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following message has been received from the Council of State:—

"The Council of State at its meeting held on the 21st March, 1947, agreed without any amendment to the following Bills, which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on Monday, the 17th and Wednesday, the 19th March, 1947, namely

1. A Bill to provide for the continuance of certain emergency powers in relation to requisitioned land.
2. A Bill to continue for a limited period powers to prohibit or control imports and exports.

ELECTION TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS.

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Friday, the 21st March, 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, fourteen nominations were received. Subsequently three members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee for the year commencing, 1st April, 1947:

1. Shri Satya Narayan Sinha.
2. Pandit Balkrishna, Sharma
3. Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.
4. Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan Bhattacharyya.
5. Sri Jut Dharendra Kanta Lahari Choudhury.
6. Mr. Frank R. Anthony.
7. Mr P K. Salve.
- 8 Mr M A. F Hirtzel.
- 9 Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan.
10. Mr. Mohammad Nauman.
11. Hayee Choudhury Mohammad Ismail Khan.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Mr. President: I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Friday, the 21st March, 1947, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Transport, eleven nominations were received. Subsequently three members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee for the financial year 1947-48.

- 1 Miss Maniben Kara.
- 2 Khan Bahadur Sharbat Khan.
3. Sri. A K Menon
4. Sardar Sampuran Singh.
- 5 Mr. M A. F. Hirtzel.
6. Sardar N. G Vinchoorkar.
7. Maulvi Shah Abdul Hamid
8. Mr. Shah Nazar Hasan.

RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY 27TH SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE AND REPORT OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO PARIS SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE, 1945 (Laid on the Table)

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member): Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy of the Recommendation (No. 74) adopted by the 27th Session of the International Labour Conference together with the Report of the Indian Government Delegation to the Paris Session of the International Labour Conference, 1945.†

† Not printed in these Debates. Copies placed in the Library of the House—Ed of D.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I ask the Honourable Member to what his intentions are in regard to this report? Under the constitution of the International Labour Organisation he has undertaken the obligation to place the conventions and the recommendations of the I.L.O. before an authority which is competent to ratify these conventions and recommendations. I want to know how the Honourable Member proposes to consult the legislature, which is one of the competent authorities to ratify these conventions and recommendations. I am asking this question because it is a question of the rights and privileges of the legislature and how the Honourable Member proposes to give to the legislature what is due to it.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is no intention on my part to bring any resolution. The Government ratifies a convention as far as possible and for ratification we have either to bring in a Bill or do it by executive authority. If we have to bring in a Bill we have to come before the legislature. As regards the rights and privileges of the House I have already placed the papers before the House and it is open to any Member in the House to move a motion to discuss these matters, if he so chooses.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions—Muhammadan Rural): In the past these Conventions were ratified by the Assembly by means of a resolution which was brought forward by the Labour Member.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, the point is this. I shall explain how the rights and privileges of the Legislature are involved in this. If the Government proposes to ratify the Convention and if legislation is necessary, then Government comes before the Legislature. But if Government does not propose to ratify it, then it is for the Government to bring forward a resolution that it does not propose to ratify it. It is not fair to the Legislature that Government should content themselves by placing the Report on the table of the House. Government have undertaken an obligation to consult a competent authority and that obligation is not discharged by merely placing the Report on the table of the House and leave it to non-official members to raise the question before the Legislature by a resolution which is to be balloted. I think Sir, this is not a proper discharge of the obligations which the Government of India have undertaken. My friend Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad has informed the House that there was a time when the Government of India used to bring forward resolutions and consult the Legislature. Unfortunately Sir, for the last few years the Government of India have given up that practice and I had always protested that the Government of India have not been fair to the Legislature which they used to be before. I would like the Honourable Member to consider this question rather seriously. If he has not considered it I would suggest to him to make a statement on this question a little later on, but I would not like him to act in such a way that the rights and privileges of this Legislature will be reduced.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division—Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I say a word, Sir? The former practice has been that even if the Government does not want to ratify all or any Convention, Government used to bring a resolution to that effect. The Honourable Member may just consider the former practice.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, as I have already said, on examination if we find that we have not to ratify certain Conventions, then I will bring it before the House.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Even if it is not to be ratified.

Mr. President: He will consider the position and make a statement.

ELECTION TO CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Member for Railways and Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, Six non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1947."

Mr. President: The question is.

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, Six non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Labour is concerned, for the financial year 1947-48."

Mr. President: The question is.

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Labour is concerned, for the financial year 1947-48."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR HOME DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Home Department."

Mr. President: The question is.

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Home Department for the financial year 1947-48."

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Information and Broadcasting."

Mr. President: The question is.

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Information and Broadcasting."

The motion was adopted.

I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely:

	Date of nomination	Date for election
1. Central Advisory Council for Railways	26th March, 1947	28th March, 1947.
2. Standing Committee for the Department of Labour.	26th March, 1947	28th March, 1947.
3. Standing Committee for the Home Department.	26th March, 1947	31st March, 1947.
4. Standing Committee for the Department of Information and Broadcasting.	26th March, 1947	31st March, 1947.

The nominations for all the four Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

INDIAN FINANCE BILL

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the Legislative Business which includes the consideration of the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April 1947. Before the motion is formally moved I might just inform the House that I am informed that parties have agreed that the consideration and all the stages of this Bill will be finished by 5 p.m. on Friday, the 28th March, and all questions outstanding at that time will be put to the House and disposed of. This gives five days. Out of this, four days are earmarked for general discussion and Friday, the 28th will be for the clause by clause reading and the final stage of the Bill.

As regards the allotment of time, the House will get 14 hours for general discussion and one day for the clauses. The fourteen hours will be distributed between the various parties in the following proportion (I am not referring to hours but only to proportions).

Congress	League	European	Unattached	Government
4	2	1	1	1

That is how I understand the parties have agreed to the distribution of time.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1947, be taken into consideration."

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I ask a question of the Honourable Member? We read in the papers of attempts at arriving at a settlement. We would like to know before the discussion begins whether any settlement has been arrived at and on what conditions?

Mr. President: I will just put the formal motion to the House and then the Honourable the Finance Member may reply, if he wishes to.

Motion moved:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1947, be taken into consideration."

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend has asked me a question. I am afraid I am not in a position to state definitely anything at this stage. If the Honourable Member would remember, there was some difference of opinion amongst the members of the Select Committee on the two Bills which were considered by the Committee—the Business Profits Tax and the Capital Gains Tax Bills. As far as this Bill is concerned, there is no difference of opinion because it never went to the Select Committee and it is being considered by the House now. With regard to those Bills, when I come up before the House and move for their consideration I hope I shall be able to make a statement.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I would like the Honourable Member to realise the difficulties of the members who would like to take part in the general discussion on the Finance Bill. In the general discussion, I think it will be necessary for them to refer to the Government's other proposals; if they know that there is a settlement, well, they will make a speech accordingly. If they find that there is no settlement, their speeches will be a little different. From that point of view I would like the Honourable Member to announce to the House as soon as he is in a position to make an announcement. If he is not in a position to make an announcement today, I can understand it but as soon as he is in a position to make that announcement, the House should know what the position is, because the members will have to make their speeches according to the fact whether there is a settlement or not.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) They can make alternative speeches.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division, Muhammadan Rural). It is not necessary. We have got the Report of the Select Committee and we frame our speeches accordingly.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That may be so from your point of view.

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: If that is the general desire of the House, as soon as I am in a position to inform Honourable Members I shall be glad to do so.

Mr. President: Before the House rises for Lunch—it is barely two minutes now—I should like to state that the time limit which I propose is 15 minutes or more if necessary for each individual speaker and in case more time is taken up by the member of a party, there will be a deduction from the party's time, as time for each party is proposed now to be rationed and this is agreed to by the parties.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maltra (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, Sir, we are now entering upon the consideration of the financial proposals providing the wherewithal to the Government for the coming year. I may at once say that this budget, which is the first budget of the National Government, has startling features. It has both a positive and a negative character. With regard to this budget, it has been said on the one hand, that it is a socialistic budget, a poor man's budget. On the other hand, it has been said that it is a budget which gives or aims to give a death blow to

[Lakshmi Kanta Maitra,]

the industry in this country. Probably both are extreme views and the truth lies between the two. During the time at my disposal it is not possible for me to enter into a meticulous examination of the different proposals, but I would say this that this extreme opinion on either side is based on superficial view of things. Be that as it may, I need only tell the House that it places Members like us in a very intriguing position. There is the negative side that no new burdens are imposed on the poor people, on the general mass of people. From that point of view it has a great merit no doubt. But, Sir, on the positive side there are some aspects in the financial proposals which, unless they are radically altered and modified, will have very adverse repercussions on the whole industrial progress of this country. As I rose to speak, I was told that the dead-lock which was continuing all these days over these financial proposals is on the way to resolution. I will not, therefore, enter into details as I do not know the terms in which these have been solved. I must, however, congratulate the Honourable Member that his name will be remembered for many a long year to come for his bold venture in abolishing the salt tax. From time immemorial salt has been a symbol of fidelity between man and man and on the issue of the salt tax one of the most momentous of Indian battles has been fought and eventually won. But, Sir, after all is said and done, from the point of view of pure economics, I can say that it will give at best a sentimental satisfaction. Nothing more than that. The incidence of tax on salt is very low and I agree with those who think that the benefits can never be ultimately passed on to the consumers who buy salt in very small quantities. But all the same, I support the principle of it.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the present Finance Member to a very important passage in the speech of the last Finance Member, Sir Archibald Rowlands when he was contemplating to abolish the salt tax. On page 3035 of the debates he says

"I would make this suggestion to my successor, I believe the revenues of Government controlled salt can be increased by better arrangements made for marketing which would produce nearly as much as the present tax produces. That would, however, take some time to work out and that may be a solution which I commend for the consideration of my successor or successors."

I would like to ask my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, what he has done with regard to the suggestions made by the last Finance Member. Reading the report of the Government Commercial Appendix I find figures which are of a striking character. Output of Salt, manufactured by Government, rose to about 21.5 million maunds in the year 1943-44, but in the next year it fell down to 15.4 million. There has been an appalling drop in the production of salt and consequently there has been considerable loss of Government revenue. I want the Members of the Public Accounts Committee to carefully pursue this matter. It is to be found on pages 36 to 42 of the Commercial Appendix to the appropriation accounts. This is a very important matter, for I feel that if the suggestions given by the last Finance Member and the Commercial Appendix are carefully gone into, one will get an idea of the huge amount of losses. This is very necessary in this way that while the Honourable the Finance Member estimates that there is going to be a deficit of 56.54 crores in his budgetary proposals, a proper handling of the Salt operations is sure to give him something to the tune of ten crores of rupees. Sir, another matter to which I want to draw attention is the question of sterling balances. My Honourable friend has given the assurance that he will be very careful to see that the sterling resources are not frittered away. But, Sir, there is an alarming feature in connection with sterling balances. I have been carefully noticing that in the course of the last year,

the balance of trade in this country with the rest of the world has been adverse. From the figures available at the present moment, I find that we have already lost some 400 crores worth of sterling balances by our foreign trade, inasmuch as we are importing good deal more than we are exporting. This is an alarming condition. A country which is really a creditor country now may easily become a debtor country again in the near future special care is taken now to safeguard the sterling balances.

Now, I want to tell my Honourable friend that though no fresh burdens have been imposed on the general mass of people, yet the prodigious weight of indirect taxation has been so crushing that the people in this country have been literally groaning under it. Some effective relief should have been provided in the Budget. The most oppressive of all taxes we pay today is the tax on human endurance. The primary necessities of life have all been so heavily taxed that life has become intolerable. I looked in the Budget in vain for any relief in that direction. In the context of present conditions, a man's life is a long drawn battle for the procurement of one commodity or another. Unless this position is eased and softened out, the miseries are not going to diminish to any extent. We had a full dress debate in the House the other day on the question of Controls. My Honourable friends on the other side felt they should maintain controls on essential commodities for some time more. I have no objection to that. But my suggestion is that you should have an effective machinery by which you can control the distribution. You have to see that there is equitable distribution of the controlled commodities in all parts of the country. For this purpose you have to issue special directives to the provincial governments, and to see to it that the directives are rigidly followed and enforced. Leaving aside this topic, I shall now deal with one or two aspects of the expenditure of the central revenues bearing on my province of Bengal.

Sir, I find that the Central Government has during the last three years made a contribution of nearly 18 crores to Bengal. I have before me certain reports and representations from the Members of the Bengal Legislature which all clearly prove that there have been culpable extravagance and waste so much so that the audit department had to make scathing criticisms on the expenditure. I ask my Honourable friends over there, whether the Government of India have been satisfied that the amounts that are made available to the provincial governments, and the Government of Bengal, in particular—which by the way raises a large amount of tax for central government—are properly spent whether rigid economies are maintained. To mention only one item, I find that out of three crores of rupees made available to the Bengal Government for relief operations in connection with the last famine, only Rs 6,40,000 were spent by way of gratuitous relief and nearly Rs 23,60,00,000 were wasted on office, staff, and contingencies. The contingencies alone amounted to more than 1½ crores. I want my Honourable friend on the other side to visualise this, to realise what it means when hundreds of thousands died of starvation, that though relief was made available by the generous contribution of the central government to the provincial government, only a fraction of it was spent on actual relief and the rest misused on establishments and contingencies. This appalling waste into which the Central Government must look. I understand that the Central Government also makes payments to the Bengal Government as "police grant" in connection with the central government undertakings in the province. That grant is something in the neighbourhood of one crore. The grants made to the Bengal Government are not spent for the purpose for which they are granted and that is my greatest objection to those provincial grants. This year also the Central Government have made certain grants to provincial governments for certain projects, with certain conditions attached to those grants. One condition, among others, is that the provincial governments must exploit their resources to

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the full and safeguard them. I ask Honourable Members sitting over there whether they have satisfied themselves as to the solvency of the provincial governments finances, if they have satisfied themselves that the money that is made available to them is spent for the purposes for which they are earmarked or whether they are diverted or abused for purposes other than those for which they are meant. Sir, in the Bengal Legislative Assembly recently there was an acrimonious debate raised on this question in connection with the discussion on the Public Accounts Committee report. Prominent Members of the Congress party brought to the notice of the House cases of extravagance, of gross abuse of funds, and the ways in which the moneys were diverted. What was the reply of the Government? The reply was amazing. The Finance Member said that their Government were raising revenues, and not the Congress, and it was for the party in power, namely, the Muslim League party, to judge whether the amount was properly spent or not.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member will restrict himself solely to the amount sanctioned by the Government of India as a grant to the Bengal Government and to no other sources of provincial revenues. The entire field of provincial revenue is not under discussion now.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I was not intending to touch on other sources of provincial revenues. I have hitherto confined my observations to the grants made by the Central Government to the provincial government. My grievance is that these grants are misapplied. They are spent for purposes for which they were not meant. A grant is made to the provincial government of Bengal for policing. Do you know what is happening? The Bengal Government are utilising this grant for importing Pathans from the Punjab and that from the Muslim community for policing work. They have imported nearly 1,600 and more are on the way and this is being done with the money advanced by the Central Government. I ask the Central Government to be careful about this, because we have seen what happened recently in the Punjab. The Central Government should take time by the forelock and they should be cautioned against allowing the provincial government to utilise this 'police fund' for such nefarious purposes.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: There are no Pathans in the Punjab.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: They are all ex-military men from the Punjab and that from only one community. They are all drawn from the Muslim community. Some 1,600 have come and more are on their way. Sir, we are passing through tremendous changes now. The political situation that is now facing the country demands the most serious consideration from all elements in the country. Sir, at long last the British have decided to leave this country by June 1948. The challenge has been accepted by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and all honour to him. It is up to all to see that the transference of power is rendered smooth. But coming from Bengal and living there, I have a great fear, there is a great consternation among my whole people, because closely following this announcement, there has been a pronouncement from Sind and Bengal that both of them want to form an independent Sind and an independent Bengal, independent of British control, independent of control from the Centre. I ask the Government to visualise what that means to the Hindus of Bengal. It means that Bengal is to be one of the Balkan States in India, and she will have nothing to do with the rest of India. Well, Sir, coming from Bengal and from the minority community which has made tremendous sacrifices for the independence and freedom of this country, now in sight, we cannot view the situation with equanimity. Our province, I claim has made sacrifices comparable to those made by any other province. We earnestly appeal to the rest of India not to leave us in the lurch. Sir, we pay more than 80 per cent of the revenues to the provincial government. We,

Hindus, have not any voice or share in the administration of the government. Why? That is because of the communal award which has installed a perpetual communal majority in our province. We had committed serious mistakes in the past, we did not oppose the communal award with one voice and consequently we are now testing the bitter fruits of these communal disturbances and communal raj in some of the provinces. Let us not make that mistake again. We also made another mistake, we were not allowed to form a coalition of the Krishak Proja party and Congress party in 1937. If we could do that much of the communalism would have vanished from the province and peaceful atmosphere there would have been possible. I say all this more in sorrow than in anger, more in anguish than in anything else. I ask my leaders to be very careful and firm. I want them to remember that we have been all along with them in the past. We want them to see that in the shape of things to come we may have a voice. We want to tell them that my province which has sacrificed the flower of its youth at the altar of freedom should not now be sacrificed by them. The political and nationalist Bengal is ever anxious to remain associated with the rest of India, come what may, she wants to be within the Union Centre, come what may. Let there be no mistake about that. I want our leaders to realise that we refuse to be segregated by force from the rest of India with whom we have cast in our lot for the last century and a half. I am gratified that with regard to the Punjab the Congress Working Committee has taken a momentous decision, and by implication perhaps also in regard to Bengal. I may tell them that Bengal stands on an equal if not a better footing. We do not want separatism; we have always pleaded for oneness and unity. We refuse to be in isolation.

Mr. President: I am afraid the Honourable Member is going beyond the scope of a legitimate speech on this subject. There can be no political speeches regarding the constitution for future India. The Honourable Member should restrict himself to the administration of the Government of India. He has already exhausted his time, and so far as grant by the Central Government is concerned he has had his say. He can criticise that aspect of the provincial administration which concerns grants by the Central Government; but so far as matters outside the administration of the Government of India are concerned they are beyond the scope of the Finance Bill.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I am grateful to the Chair and I accept these observations without reserve. I want to show the relevance of it: in this way, that this Assembly provides money for the Constituent Assembly which is shaping the destiny of this country. However, I am closing. I make this final appeal to all that in these critical times we must work together and evolve a constitution in which every community in India will have its proper and rightful place, and that in such a scheme of things we the Hindus of Bengal may not be lost sight of, ignored or sacrificed.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non Official): Sir, I had a dream in which I saw the Honourable Finance Member sitting in an armchair trying to frame his budget. He had around him some of his trusted advisers and he asked them whether it was a fact that large profits were being made by the sale of all sorts of articles from a pin to a valuable diamond and from shares to industrial concerns. They admitted that it was true. "Well", said the Finance Member, "tax them." "But", said his advisers, "we have no precedent to go on; no such tax exists in England; there may be one in the United States but we know nothing about it. We have not even got the Act here." Said the Finance Member, "I am the first Indian Finance Member of the Government of India. I care not for precedents and I care not for advice. I tell you, tax these wretched fellows and get money out of them. Do not in any way be hampered by safeguards or by any questions of equity or honesty or justice; tax them". And so the Bill was framed. Then the Finance Member asked how companies are taxed. They said they were liable to income-tax and corporation tax. "Double the corporation tax" said he and it was done. Then he asked,

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"Is it not a fact that in England individuals are taxed to the extent of 19 shillings and six pence in the pound?" "Yes", they said, "that is a fact". "Well", said he, "see that the individual in India is taxed 15 annas and six pies in a rupee at a much lower level than in England. They deserve to be taxed higher than in England. If England has the notoriety of taxing individuals the highest let me have the honour and privilege of taxing individuals in India higher than anybody else in the world". And the slab was changed. Then the Finance Member lectured to his officers on the, impropriety and the unwisdom of getting rid of the Excess Profits Tax. They explained to him the reasons. He said, "Well, if there is any objection to the Excess Profits Tax invent another tax frame a Bill and tax all these fellows, and see that nobody is let off. Even if a company does not make any profit commensurate with its capital or commensurate with its earning capacity,—let them all be taxed. No such idiotic idea as standard profits. Let every company be taxed whether it earns any money or not". And the Bill was framed. Then the last injunction to his men was, "See that my successor has no further scope for taxation". Sir, then I awoke to find myself listening to the very loud and well delivered speech of the Finance Member. And I began to think

Sir, this is a Finance Bill and there usually is no limit of time. You mentioned that this time limit had been agreed to. I was not consulted and I trust you will give me a little latitude.

Sir, I am quite prepared to agree to the dictum that in ordinary times we should not have deficit budgets. But are we in ordinary times? Is not the defence budget swollen? Has any of the war-time extravagances been curbed? Are there not many departments in existence today which would not have been in existence but for the war? Are these ordinary times? Are not other countries which had been involved in this war having deficit budgets? I say these are extraordinary times. This year which we are discussing is a reflex of the war and a deficit budget to a certain extent is justified. But to my surprise I found that my Honourable friend Dr Matthai stood up to defend the budget. He said

"It would be detrimental to India's credit to leave any part of this year's budget deficit uncovered."

I should have thought that my Honourable friend the Railway Member would be the last Member of Government to stand up and defend this budget. As you know, Sir, he was part author of what is now well known as the Bombay Plan, and that plan advocated a three thousand crore deficit by the use of the printing press for what was called an expansionist economy. Did he realise that by supporting this budget in its entirety he was going against the very object which he had advocated at a cost of three thousand crores to this Government? Some times we had extra direct taxation of about 1½ to 2 crores, and many doubted the wisdom of a direct tax of this nature in the interests of this country,—whether it would not tend to harm our industries and trade. This year direct taxation was proposed to the extent of 36 crores and the Honourable Member who put his signature to a report which advocated a deficit of three thousand crores for an expansionist economy had nothing to say against this extraordinary direct taxation which went solidly against the objects which he had advocated in that report. My Honourable friend, Dr. Matthai then went a little further and gave an extraordinary argument. He began to feel that compared with the low rate of interest at which Government can borrow, the high rate expected by the industrialists is not justified, and he wondered whether this difference will not be offset by the loss of efficiency, enterprise and initiative shown by private enterprise. He seems to believe that the difference can be computed

by an arithmetical calculation. Mr. President, you have had a great deal to do with commercial concerns. Dr. Matthai, with whatever experience he has had, seems to have forgotten that companies that are floated can make a loss, that companies and industrial concerns can sometimes—for the first six or seven years—not pay a dividend, that companies have to set aside reserves to pay the loss and on many occasions it has been known that they had even to depreciate their capital. Dr. Matthai ought to have known all that when he tried to compare these returns on industrial concerns with the returns on Government paper, and he was doing no good to Government when he compared the security of industrial shares with the security in an investment in Government paper. Does he believe that there is no difference between the safety of investment in Government paper, and the safety or risk in investments in commercial and industrial concerns? If such a comparison can be made on the floor of the House, how can the credit of Government be maintained and that by an Honourable Member of Government. He seems to forget what risks are run by industrial concerns, by poor investors in industrial shares, and seems to believe that an arithmetical comparison can be made on the low rate of interest paid by Government and what he called the high rate of interest demanded by industrialists. He has done no good to the credit of Government, and let me tell him—I am sorry he is not here, and I regret I have to make these remarks in his absence.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): His spirit is there.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I hope it is, and he will learn. If he does not, his spirit will. At any rate, Sir, it is surprising that such a comparison should have been made on the floor of the House.

And then he went on to say that because there was such a difference, difference, of 2 to 3 per cent between the returns of Government paper and the expected returns on industrial investments, they would seriously have to consider the question of nationalization (Interruption) I do not object to nationalization of industries if it is in the interest of India, but let not my Honourable friends in season and out of season threaten nationalization which does the country no good, which lowers the financial credit of India, which goes on bringing fear and hesitation in the minds of investors. If this sort of statements are made in season, and out of season, can you expect poor people, or rich people, to invest in industrial concerns, or to go in for starting new industries? No, Sir. Nationalization, let it come, but let not Members on the Treasury Benches go on crying wolf when they are not in a position to carry out their threats. It stops industrialization, it hinders production, and deadens all initiative for further production. My Honourable friend seems to have forgotten the days when industrial concerns were brought into existence with preference shares at 7 to 7½ per cent, and with such speeches as we have heard those days will return. After this Budget was introduced, confidence was shaken. I do not say this merely as an arguing point; I say it with a full sense of responsibility that after the declaration of this Budget confidence has been shaken. Even before this confidence was shaken, I know of an industrial concern which was floated with 5 per cent. preference shares and the underwriters had to take up 61 lakhs out of 175. That shows how difficult it is to raise money even today for industrial concerns. My Honourable friend, Dr. Matthai, forgot all that.

I know the time is slipping by. I will take the opportunity on the other Bills to say more on the subject but I much regret that the Finance Member himself should have repeated these threats: "If industrialists were not prepared", he said, "to help the country, Government will resort to other methods. Is not Russia industrialized? India will also be industrialized." What he meant to convey was that if the industrialists in India did not support

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his budget wholeheartedly, he would nationalise Indian industries as in Russia. That was another threat. I am not here to examine the standards of civilization that prevail in Russia today. India will have to be satisfied that the adoption of Russian economy can be fitted into a political set up of a free democracy for which we have yearned for so long. I will say no more. The Honourable the Finance Member has two courses open to him: Either he expresses words of encouragement and support to industrial enterprise and allows industrial enterprise to thrive to supply the many goods that India wants or he nationalizes Indian industries. Let him not believe for a moment that the agitation against his Budget is propaganda, mere propaganda, coercion, and blackmail.—These are the words he used. I was sorry to read them in the press, I had not the privilege of listening to him. Let me tell him in all earnestness that industrialists in India will be prepared to help Government in every way, but they will not submit to coercion and to blackmail. Now, Sir, as time is running fast, I will not take up very much of your time except to go through very very sketchily some of the proposals. take the tax and Capital gains. Before such a tax was levied there ought to have been a thorough investigation. We do not know the repercussions of such legislation. We do not know what is the legislation in America. But we do know one thing, that there were certain safeguards in the American legislation which have been omitted in the Bill presented to this House. In America they took good care to see that long-term investments were encouraged and short-term speculative ventures were discouraged. Is there anything in the Bill in regard to that? As the Bill is coming before the House, I will not speak more about it except to state that I do think that even if the Bill is to last even for a short term, there should be a provision that all holdings for seven years should be excluded from the scope of this Bill.

Then, Sir, coming to the tax on profits, which is I believe to take the place, to a certain extent, of the Excess Profits Tax Act, I am in agreement with Government—if that is their object—to tax war profits. To tax profits such as would have accrued under the E.P.T. Act—I do not know why the E.P.T. Act was not extended—but the great defect in the Bill that we will discuss is that companies that had made no war profits in the year under consideration will also have to pay this tax. They would not have had to pay a rupee under the E.P.T. But they will have to pay it under this Bill. I say that is unfair. Take your proper share of the profits made by companies due to the reflex of the war. I have no objection but do not mulct companies that are just coming into existence or still floundering in the mud and tax them further by taking a little of their profits which are quite incommensurate with their capital or earning capacity. I would make this suggestion for consideration, and I do not think it is much to ask that all companies that would not have been liable to pay E.P.T. in the year 1946-47 if that act had been extended, should not be liable to pay this tax. That is my contention.

I have nearly finished. Before I come to Super-tax, does the House realize that under the original suggestions made by the Honourable the Finance Member, the taxation on companies in India would have been much higher than the tax on companies in England. In England it is nine shillings in the pound. By the original proposals it would have been 9½ annas in 16 annas. In England it is 47 per cent. In India it would be, under his proposals, 57 per cent. I leave it to the House to judge whether it is equitable and just.

Now coming to the slabs under the Finance Bill, the tax will be higher in India. In England sh. 19-6d. in the pound is paid by an individual whose income is over £20,000. Under this Bill the tax on an individual's income

above 1,20,000 is 15 annas and 6 pies in the rupee. How can this be justified? I have come to the end—I am sorry that I have had to leave out a great deal I wanted to say. May I add that this tax savours of—may I call it—vindictive punishment

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan: Which tax?

Sir Gowasjee Jehangir: The slab—vindictive punishment. And may I add that it does not appear to be so much sympathy for the poor as jealousy of the rich.

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia (Punjab: Landholders): The last time while I was speaking on the Defence cut, I took a good deal of the time of this Honourable House in making out one point to which somehow or other neither the Defence Member nor the Defence Secretary gave any reply. I hope that now he will give me some reply to that point. I have been referring to the obsolete and unreliable aircraft which the Indian airforce have got. As I said, Sir, the last time, these Spit 14's, or shall I say Spitfire 14's are absolutely unreliable and if I may say so are obsolete. Is it not a fact that the technical people of the Royal Indian Air Force along with the Royal Air Force definitely gave a report that these aircraft should all be grounded? That in other words means that all flying on these aircraft should be stopped immediately. And is it not a fact that the Air-Officer-Commanding-in-Chief, instead of accepting that recommendation he put these aircraft on limited flyings? Now, Sir, the effect of this was that a good many of our budding pilots and also some of our trained pilots have been killed. I put it to the Defence Secretary, that the person responsible for these deaths, which is a national loss, should give an answer as to the reason for his putting these aircraft which were definitely not fit for flying, for limited flying.

In this case, if the Defence Secretary wants I can give him some technical details as well. For instance, one of the defects of these—I hope he does not call them modern aircraft—is that their teeth on the Bevel drive to the magneto has been found to be weak. A technical fellow from the Rolls-Royce people from England inspected this and reported that this was of a faulty construction. While, Sir, the manufacturers admitted, but our Air Officer Commanding still does not think that these aircraft are unserviceable and he risks the lives of our young men by making them fly these unreliable aircraft. Another thing, and that is the magneto itself, which is the main part in the running of an engine, has been found to pack up a number of times. If he wants another example I can also tell him that the teeth of the main gear wheel, have also been found shearing off very soon. Well, if that is not enough to ground these machines or to pack them away and give the Royal Indian Air Force some decent machines to fly, I wonder what else is.

There is one thing more and that is about the Griffin engines. I have already put a question on that point but I may mention here that these new engines which have come all the way from England (and I believe have been paid for by the Indian Government) when they were opened their crank case was found to be rusted. I hope that the Indian Government will take proper action and see that Indian money which has been hard-earned by the Indian people is not wasted like that.

Again this reminds me of the Defence Member saying that the Indianisation of the services now rests with the Member. But I should like to remind him through the Defence Secretary, because the Member is not present here, that though he may be very keen (I know he is very keen) on Indianisation his policy has to be carried out by certain other people. If they do not fully co-operate with him Indianisation cannot proceed. As an example I know it that in the Indian Nationalisation Committee, which had some sittings recently, it came out in evidence that three services or three parts of the defence services can be fully nationalised today. Those are the Royal Indian Air Force, the Royal

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Signal Corps and the Indian Medical Service. If they can be nationalised today why should not they be proceeded with rightaway so that the extra money that the Indian Defence Department are paying to the British officers and the British other ranks may be saved and this money can be utilised elsewhere, where it may be badly needed?

Another point which I would like to suggest is that an Advisory Committee should be formed which should see that Indian personnel are put into key positions in the General Headquarters. What I mean is that when the British quit by June 1948 we should be ready to take over all the positions that they are going to vacate. I would suggest that the Defence Member along with the Defence Secretary should see that the following posts should have Indians appointed to them: if an Indian cannot be appointed to these posts straightaway, at least a second in command should be put there, so that when the British quit they can easily take these posts over. The posts are. (1) The Training Directorate, (2) Military Operations, (3) Military Secretary, (4) Staff Duties Directorate, (5) The Directors of Warlike equipment, (6) The Brigadiers-General staff, in the Commands. These are some of the key positions which I consider it is absolutely necessary that Indians should be put on to them. I know a few Indians who are qualified to take them over. But I leave it to the Defence Member's discretion to appoint at least a second in command who can take over these posts when the time comes.

Another point which I wanted to make was with reference to the Indian brigade which is at the moment in Japan and on which a lot of Indian money is spent. If I were to give you some figures they would be very revealing. It is most astonishing to note that this Indian Brigade which is supposed to represent India in Japan has got one Brigadier who is an Indian. There is of course nothing wrong with that but when I say that there is not a single Indian who is on the brigade staff of this Indian brigade, not a single Indian who is commanding any one of the three battalions in this brigade, it is quite a different matter. All these posts are held by Britishers. It is they who represent India. It is rather surprising that India which is claiming independence and which claims that her own nationals should represent India is represented by British officers, and here we find that the Defence Department cannot find Indians who can fill these posts. This is another place where I am sure economy can be effected in the Defence Department.

Another point which I would like to mention is in connection with aircraft. I would suggest that a Mission should go to England and to America to get hold of decent aircraft for the Royal Indian Air Force straightaway. As I have suggested they can go to England first and if England cannot give us the right type of aircraft then they can go to America and get the aircraft from them. I am quite sure that the American Government will surely come to our help and give us the right type of aircraft needed.

One more point and I have finished and that is with regard to the Indian National Army. This House has expressed so many times that these prisoners should be released. I hope that these fellows who have to their credit nothing more than what some of the present members sitting on the Treasury Benches have done, though in a slightly different form, should be released and why should they be penalised for those very acts? I know for a fact that the I.C.S. are still carrying on in their old way. Whenever a member of the I.N.A. applies for a job, although we have been assured on the floor of this House that there is absolutely no bar and that they have equal chances with others, the actual fact is that they are quietly told to go away. They are told "You have got no chance; you better go away, because you joined the I.N.A. you cannot be employed." I hope that necessary action will be taken and these Indian patriots are given a chance to be useful citizens of India without any

bar on them for their having served the Indian National Army. In view of the shortage of trained personnel in our Defence Services which necessitates at the moment, I believe, the keeping of British personnel, I would suggest that any member of the Indian National Army who wants to come back and serve in the Indian Army may be allowed to do so. That would overcome the difficulty of the shortage of manpower.

I am given to understand that in the Indian Medical Service the recruitment so far has been in the proportion of two Britishers to one Indian. In view of the fact that the British are quitting in fifteen months' time the position should now be that the Indian Medical Service should be for Indians alone, and in the recruitment they should have only Indians. Here again I would suggest that the key positions should be filled up by people who are good who are already in the Indian Medical Service.

There is one point to which I also referred during the cut motion and that is the duplication of certain things in the General Headquarters, for instance the labour and resettlement. You have already got a Labour Department in the Government of India. But the Defence Services are running another Department, that is, the Resettlement Department which is doing exactly the same thing which the Labour Department is doing. I see no reason why this money should not be saved. The Resettlement work should go to the Labour Department.

The Defence Secretary will bear me out when I say that when a unit moves from one place to another it moves on a warrant. This warrant, as you know, Sir, is a special concession to the Government of India. When a section of the General Headquarters moves from Delhi to Simla I believe each officer gets three first class fares which is, if I may say so, about six times the amount that an officer moving along with a unit is entitled to. This I think is sheer waste of money. I hope that in future when the General Headquarters or a part of it moves from Delhi to Simla, it will be borne in mind that they move on a warrant and not that each officer gets three first class fares. Probably the Defence Secretary will come out with the explanation that this is to compensate them for the disturbance involved in moving from one place to another. That disturbance is in no way more than the disturbance of an officer in a unit moving from one place to another. I see no justification why these officers should in any case get more than what the other officers are getting.

Sir, I have practically finished. The senior officers go on to England for short courses. What happens to them over there? They go from this place to attend a course which is supposed to be beneficial for India's Defence Forces. But as soon as they reach England they attend a two or three days' course and then they are stuck up over there—I should not like to say why—for a passage back. They actually spend probably a month or two months over there in England, living with their family or somebody. Here again, in view of the changing circumstances and the changing times in India I hope that in future it is not the British senior officers who go and attend these courses but it should be Indian senior officers who should go and attend these courses, for very soon India will have these posts filled by Indians. It is good to start off giving them training on these lines rightaway.

Another small part of this is I believe the British Other Ranks. They get special leave, probably are flown over to England to their homes and that expense is borne by the Defence Department. This is a very considerable amount and can easily be curtailed if not altogether stopped, by changing these personnel, as I said by Indianisation. As soon as our army, our navy and our Air Force gets Indian personnel these repatriation trips which cost India so much will automatically be stopped and India will save quite a lot of money like that. Sir, I have finished.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I am a small man coming from a small province, Assam. All the same, Sir, I feel it my duty to pay my tribute of appreciation to the Honourable the Finance Member for his financial proposals. I think, Sir, it is the first genuine attempt in the right direction. By right direction I mean that to impose the burden of taxation on those people who are able to bear it and to lighten as much as possible the burden on the poorer section of the people. Sir, I do not forget that there is a sharp difference of opinion in the country on his budget proposals and that difference has also crept into the Select Committee. But I am glad to hear that a workable understanding has been arrived at and the Honourable the Finance Member has taken the practical step of making the financial proposals in a manner which will show how the future Finance Ministers have to act, namely, to lighten the burden as much as possible on the poorer section of the people. I would have been glad if I could have spoken as eulogistically about his sympathy for the poor provinces like Assam. Mountain of grievances have been pent up for a very long time and it will take a long time and it will be a tedious tale if I were to tell the House what my province and my people feel about Government of India's lack of sympathy. Lest I should not have enough time I will just give the headlines of what I want to say. If these headlines are investigated sympathetically by the Honourable Finance Minister he will be able to remove a good deal of the injustices which have been done to my province.

First of all I will refer to the excise duty on petrol and kerosene, poor grant of subvention by the Otto Neimeyer Award, the collection of excise duty on unoured betel nuts in the province of Assam, the failure to distribute any part of the export duty on tea on production basis, poor grant for post-war reconstruction work, the opium policy by which the manufacture of opium by the Government of India is still going on and which has acted very adversely on the prohibition policy adopted by the province of Assam, the refusal to employ any native of the province of Assam in the Secretariat, Postal Department, Communication, Excise Department and in the Railway Department and the discharge of Emergency Commissioned Officers in the Military Department belonging to the province of Assam.

As regards the first point, the entire excise duty which is levied is taken by the Government of India and not even a small moiety is given to the province. On this matter, for over a decade European and Indian members coming from Assam have spoken year after year. Mr Hockenhall, in this House from Assam, Mr Abdul Matin Chaudhury and the late lamented Nabin Chandra Bardoloi and Mr Basanta Kumar Das have repeatedly spoken about it and all Finance Ministers and Members of Assam, from Sir Abraham Lone, Sir Muhammad Sagdulla and others have repeatedly stated in the Budget that great injustice has been done to the province. The Joint Parliamentary Committee which is known as the Percy Committee had also drawn attention to this injustice to Assam. Notwithstanding all this, in the Neimeyer award only a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs was given as subvention to Assam. No portion of the petrol and kerosene excise duty was given to the province. The provinces of Sind, Orissa and the N.-W. F. P. were given liberal subvention. The N.-W. F. P. got a crore. In the case of Sind it was more than a crore. Although more than three crores is collected from Assam in the shape of excise duty on petrol and kerosene, not more than 30 lakhs is given to that province as subvention. Whatever may have happened in the past, there is a popular Government in power now, consisting of representatives of the major political parties in India. That being the case, may we not expect that a good portion, at least half of this excise duty should be allotted to the province. It may be urged that the province of Assam has not been helping herself and that it has therefore been reduced to this predicament. I would in this draw the attention to the speech delivered by the Finance Minister of Assam in presenting the budget for the

next year in course of which, he had bitterly and poignantly criticised the apathy of the Central Government. In the year 1947-48 the province of Assam has a deficit of half a crore. The utmost limit of taxation has been reached in Assam. They have in order to balance their Budget done away with the remission of 50 per cent. of land revenue which had to be given before. They imposed an agricultural income-tax. Ours is one of the first provinces which has imposed agricultural income-tax. They have imposed amusement and betting taxes, revised the Motor Vehicle Taxation Act and introduced the Motor Spirit and Lubricant Tax. They have also introduced new taxation for the next year in order to balance the Budget. I repeat that the utmost limit of taxation has been reached in the province and unless the Government of India distributes a little more of the excise duty which they levy the province will be in a helpless condition. It may be said that vast areas of land are lying waste and because of that reason the province has not been able to stand on her legs. This is not so. There is not an inch of waste land available in the province and there is no room for development in that direction.

I come now to the betel nut tax. It is a small tax. I do not know how the Government of India can get any substantial amount out of it. My Honourable friend's predecessor was good enough to reduce the tax. I had assured the people in my province now that my Honourable friend is in charge of affairs and since he had visited Assam and seen the poverty stricken people of Assam I would secure for them remission from that tax. I must express my disappointment that no remission has been given but there is yet time to make that declaration. A reduction could easily have been made. Then the excise duty is levied in a very oppressive manner in our Province. Under the law, as I understand it, no tax can be levied on uncured betel-nuts, and I can tell you that there are no cured betel-nuts in my province. Betel-nuts are not cultivated on a commercial scale or sold on a commercial scale. Betel-nuts are consumed by the people themselves. But what do these excise people do? They go to the locality, count the trees and put an imaginary figure of the betel-nuts. Whereas 80 cured betel-nuts make one lb., 40 uncured betel-nuts are taken as one lb. and tax is levied which is just the double. On the one hand, it is said that there is no tax on uncured betel-nuts and, on the other hand, instructions have been issued by the Government of India that 40 uncured betel-nuts will be taken as one lb. This has been a very oppressive tax on the poor people. An ordinary peasant cannot offer tea or any other drink when a guest comes to his house, but he offers betel-nuts. Therefore, this tax on them is rather cruel. In our parts of the country we do not take spices with betel-nuts just as people do in northern India. There the poor people only take the betel-nut and the pan leaf and for that, too, they have to pay a heavy tax. Recently, I had brought to the notice of the Government of India the incidence of this tax. What happens is this. An Excise officer goes there and says that there is so much betel-nut and therefore so much tax is to be paid. I brought this matter to the notice of the Superintendent of Excise. What the Government of India Secretariat has written to me was this that because the peasants could not give account of the cured betel-nut which they had sold in the previous year, therefore the officer merely by guess had fixed this amount. There was no cured betel-nut in those villages. How could they give an account? So, unnecessarily this tax was levied. I would suggest that this small tax which is a burden on the poor people should be done away with now that you have tapped more lucrative sources of taxation.

I would also suggest, as I said before, that the export duty on tea should not be entirely swallowed by the Government of India. A part of this duty should also be given to the province of Assam. As it is, we do not get anything out of the tea which is produced there. People who live in other parts of India take much better tea than we do. The first quality of tea goes to England and the second quality goes to other parts of India and we take the very poor

[Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri]
 quality of tea dusts there, and that is all we get out of it. Then, the labourers in these tea gardens come from other places and not one of them belongs to the province of Assam. So, I say that out of this duty which is levied on Tea which is produced in Assam, we ought to get a share of it on production basis. We do not get any share of it at present. The offices of most of the companies are either in England or in Calcutta. So, the income-tax that is levied on tea is collected either in Bengal or in England. We do not get any share of that income-tax which is levied on tea. So, I suggest that a share of the export duty on tea should be given to Assam. If it is distributed amongst the tea growing provinces in India, it should be distributed on the production basis just as excise duty on jute is distributed nowadays. We get very little excise duty on jute because our production of jute is much smaller than that of Bengal. We did not adopt the suicidal policy of substituting jute for rice. So, today fortunately we are not in such a bad need of rice as the Bengalis are because Bengal has taken to the cultivation of jute in preference to food crop.

Then, Sir, as regards the grant to the post-war reconstruction department Government has given us a grant on the basis of population, but it has entirely forgotten that the brunt of this war had fallen on the province of Assam and therefore due note ought to have been taken of the damage done to that province and the hardship that it had to undergo because a portion of this province was really the battle-field in 1942 and 1944 as well.

Then, Sir, the most disgraceful item of the budget is the item which has been shown at page 5 of the Demands for Grants. I refer to the Demand for Opium. There you will see that a large sum of money has been allotted for Ghazipur Opium Factory, payment for special cultivation in Malwa, payment for opium cultivation in the United Provinces, miscellaneous charges at the ports, Neemuch opium factory, costs of police guards, charges in England, etc. For whose benefits are you manufacturing this opium? Are you manufacturing this opium for consumption by the Indians here? Do you want to carry on consumption of opium here when provinces like Assam have adopted a complete policy of opium prohibition? They do not take any opium out of the Government Treasury at all. You are manufacturing opium here so that it may be smuggled and sold in Assam. Sir, the whole policy of opium prohibition has been made a failure in Assam for action of Government of India and we are making best efforts to stop smuggling. We are hearing of the total prohibition of liquor, much to the inconvenience of my friends to my right (meaning the European), but you are following the policy of producing opium, not for the benefit of India but for the benefit of the smugglers, who are making a huge profit out of the opium which is smuggled from here to Assam. Formerly, the price of opium was Rs. 2 per tola but now the price of the smuggled opium comes to nearly Rs. 50 per tola. This is from the official reports. Therefore, they have started investigation and they have adopted fresh measures to combat this evil. But they will not succeed so long as opium is available in Malwa and the United Provinces and they cannot stop it being smuggled to the province of Assam. So, I would humbly suggest that if your cry of prohibition has really any meaning and if you are serious about it, the first step which a popular government ought to take is to sacrifice the revenue which it derives from opium and stop its manufacture altogether in India. You might say that opium is not consumed as much by the people of India as it is consumed by the people outside India. But you have no right to give the supply of this poison to any class of human beings, no matter whether they belong to India or elsewhere.

I will only repeat what has been said over and over again. Repetition is necessary. Formerly we were begging and praying. I do not want to repeat those plaintive wails or those piteous appeals for mercy. I want to make it clear to the House that the time has changed. If you want to keep Assam within

India, if you want to include Assam in the Union Government or in any Central Government which you are going to have under the new constitution, you must make up your mind today and see that full justice is done to Assam. At this critical juncture in the history of Assam, the reply which the Finance Member is going to give to the demands of Assam will go a long way to help Assam to make her decision, whether she should at all agree to come under a constitution which is framed for the benefit of other parts of India, whether she should submit to the draining of her entire excise duty from the province for the benefit of other parts of India. You have seriously to think about it. Whether you want to include us in Hindustan or whether you want to include us in Pakistan, whatever you want to do with us, you must make up your mind, whether you belong to the Congress or whether you belong to the Muslim League, you must make up your mind and tell us what you are going to do, whether you will do justice to Assam, whether you will remove this great financial injustice which has been perpetrated for years on the people of Assam and the reply of the Honourable Finance Member to questions raised by me, will be taken as a reply of the whole Government and will go along way in helping our decision about future action.

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, I rise to welcome the budget together with the taxation proposals contained therein. I consider the present budget as presented by the Honourable the Finance Member as a bold budget, it is a budget which definitely indicates a break with the past. It is a budget which has for the first time been presented before the country with a particular social objective. It is not only a budget to find money from the public, which has been done year after year. I who represent the common man in this country, am going to judge the budget from the social objectives which have been so ably expressed by the Honourable the Finance Member himself. The Finance Member said that he was faced with a deficit of 57 crores and he was going to fill in this gap keeping in view the social objective which he described to be "to reduce to the maximum extent possible the glaring disparity which exists today between the income and the standards of life of the wealthy classes and the vast multitude of poverty stricken masses and to contribute to the best of his ability to improve the lot of the common man". He also further pointed out "that India was a land of glaring contrasts and disparities, and during the war these have been accentuated by the rich becoming richer and the poor poorer and that a condition in which the few are able to wield such power over the many can hardly be regarded as any thing but a negation of the principles of social justice". Sir, I challenge anybody in this House and outside this House who talks in the name of common man to challenge these social objectives with which the budget has been presented to us. If for nothing else, I would congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member that he has set forth before the country these taxation proposals with a view to achieve these social objectives which I have once again read before you to refresh the memories of the dissenting members of the Select Committee.

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has further said that he was willing, if he was convinced that the present proposals were going to crush industries, to revise his opinion. But, I would ask, Sir, is it not a fact that in the years of war, money has been minted by the industrialists of this country at the cost of the poor? Can anybody honestly deny that the rich have become richer at the cost of the poor, during this war judging them even by their declared profits, keeping aside the hidden profits? Can anybody deny the fact that the rich have become richer and the poor, in spite of the scanty dearness allowance given to them have reduced their real incomes and their real wages? If that is the case, and if the budget deficit is to be met, who should shoulder the burden of taxation, if not those who have minted money at the cost of the poor? My Honourable friend Khan Abdul Ghani Khan speaking on these budget proposals admitted that those only should shoulder the burden of taxation who can bear it and not the poor.

[Miss Maniben Kara]

Sir, I was surprised at the uproar created against the budget proposals in the Select Committee. I was not surprised that the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce or the leaders of Stock Exchanges should have raised this uproar against budget proposals. But the present Press Campaign goes to show what I have always been saying how big business controls the press today. The press is behind big business, and the press is therefore interested in running down financial proposals made by the Government which aim at collecting more taxation from the rich. But what surprised me most was that press could be so mean as to impute personal motives in the framing of the budget proposals. I may frankly say that I do not know what was the intention of the Finance Member. I am prepared to judge him from what he has done and what he has brought before the House. I am not interested in the intentions of anybody in this House. I may be alone in expressing my independent solitary voice, because I judge all proposals coming on the floor of the House, from the Congress, or from the Muslim League, or from the European Group, not from any racial prejudice or prejudice of any political party, but from purely, what these proposals will do to the common man of my country. I will not impute any motives, because I am prepared to accept the words of the Finance Member when he says that he drafted these proposals with a social objective. And as such no Member of this House who claims to represent the common man of this country can dare to oppose or dare to say that there should be changes in the proposals of taxation. I equally welcome the setting up of a commission of enquiry to find out the profits which the industrialists have made during war. I congratulate the Finance Member for wanting to appoint a commission. With due respect to the Finance Department and to all other departments of the Government of India, I am very doubtful about the success of these commissions. Knowing well as I do, the wire pullers, and the pull of the rich on the upper class parties who are represented in this House, I doubt how far these commissions will be successful. But, Sir, I would want that this Commission should bring before the public at least a few instances of black marketeers, so that the public may judge the difference between patriotism of these nationalists and real workers like my type. Sir, the big business shouts in the name of patriotism and nationalism. Now they are put to test. You, Sir, have a chance. You occupy the Treasury Benches. You can no more have the pretext of blaming the white skin for anything and everything that happens in our country today. The English have gone (*An Honourable Member*: "Not yet".) You are occupying the Treasury Benches, and the English do not interfere in your affairs. I ask any Member of the Treasury Benches whether the Viceroy has ever vetoed what you have wanted to do and then I will blame the Viceroy and not till then. You have got every power today to frame the destiny of this country, and rather than impute motives, I would request you to judge taxation proposals on their own merits.

I do not dispute what my friend Sir Cowasjee said. Certainly the present proposals are going to hamper his private enterprise. Sir, industrialists make no secret that profit motive is behind all the private enterprise. Any attack on the percentage of private profit cannot be tolerated by private enterprise. They have made an admission. I take them for their word and I would like the Honourable the Finance Member also to take them for their word and know that they are not prepared to reduce their profits for the sake of the poor. They are not prepared, whatever happens to the country, if their profits are reduced. Reference has been made to the industrialists in England. I was in England during war time. I have met industrialists as well as the poor man of that country. I would request the capitalists of this country to follow in the footsteps of those people who have brought voluntary socialism in their country by falling in line with the march of time in their country. If the Indian capitalist to-day admit their political bankruptcy by refusing to align themselves with the needs of the people of this country, I would ask my Honourable friend the Finance

Member to accept this challenge and not be blackmailed as he had rightly stated in the beginning—but go ahead. If private enterprise is not going to come forward to help the country because they have not the profits as they used to have before, if they are not going to be as patriotic as they have been saying all these years, is it not right that the people who call themselves the representatives of the common man, occupying the Treasury Benches, should take things in their own hands? You should float Government loans for state owned industries, tax the rich, run industries and go forward. The common men of this country will co-operate to run these industries. This is the time when the country is going to judge you. All these years big promises have been given to the people. Now those promises are put to test

A reference was also made to my friend Dr. John Matthai that even when he is a signatory to the Bombay Plan, he supported taxation proposals. I was the person who condemned the Bombay Plan in not less than 200 public meetings as a plan of the capitalists. But if the same signatory of the Bombay Plan can as presented by the Finance Member, I will not allow any prejudice to stand sit on the Treasury Benches and can have courage to support the Finance Bill against him. I extend my hand of co-operation even to that signatory if he has changed. Sir, it is a very poor argument if my friend Sir Cowsjee says that a man who signed the Bombay plan yesterday should not support or change his mind to-day. He forgets that man who progresses is a man of the day

I do not want to say much about the salt tax, because every Group, every Party including the European Group had nothing but praise for the abolition of salt tax. I will give my opinion on this tax because I do not think we can govern the country without taxation. Money has to be found to govern the country. I would be very frank in expressing my reaction as I have always been, regardless of my being pleasant or unpleasant, without caring for the popularity or being shouted down. I would say, Sir, that I do not consider that the abolition of the salt tax has made much difference in the budget of the common man. I would have liked this money to be spent for making life happier for the villagers by giving them a school, or hospital, or better sanitation, etc. I am sure the Finance Member would have received the blessings of the poorer people more for such relief than by abolition of the salt tax. I would once again repeat that I have never feared to talk against the popular current. I know that everyone has praised the abolition of the salt tax. I have given my own view in the matter and I am sure that many people in their hearts agree with me though not with their lips

I am not a big economist to be able to judge the various detailed implications of the E.P.T. and the Business Profits Tax, but I am a woman with a very strong common sense. And my common-sense tells me that no businessman and no industrialist in this country would come forward and tell the Government "Look here, if you impose E.P.T. you will get much more money than you will get by Business Profits Tax, so have E.P.T." I have made it clear that I am not a business woman. I have not bothered to study the implications of E.P.T. and Budget proposals. I know my capitalist friends will get on their feet and criticise me by saying 'She talks of things that she does not know'. My reply is that I have plenty of common-sense, and I know that the capitalist, not only of this country, but of all other countries, will not offer or volunteer to pay more than they can help. If the E.P.T. would take away something more from their pockets the Honourable the Finance Member would take it with both hands. But I am sure there is something fishy somewhere in restoration of E.P.T. I therefore refuse to believe in spite of all the nationalist papers writing big and long editorials saying that this is a political game, that the budget proposals are intended to spite the other Party. I do not agree. With all my respect for you Sir Cowsjee I do not believe this story

Sir Cowsjee Jehangir: If your attack is against the papers why come down upon me?

Miss Maniben Kara: It is very interesting to note that the Committee appointed by the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce "also shares the desire of the Honourable the Finance Member to reduce the disparity in the distribution of wealth in the country"—I am quoting their words—and they went so far as to concede that "No one can deny the importance and need of social justice".

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

It is contended nevertheless "That it is not an act of social justice to try and obtain all revenues by taxing one section of the community only". With all this sympathy for the common man, and with the Finance Member, this Committee does not think it fair that only the rich should be taxed. A look at the budget will, however, show that more than half the central revenue comes from the poor section of the community. Customs, Central Excise, contribution to the Railways—all these taxes are ultimately paid by the poor people, and this amounts to 150 crores of rupees a year. Who pays all this? Is it not the common man of this country that pays all this? And if more than half the revenue is paid by the common man of this country, how can you say that to tax the rich will not be an act of justice?

Since my time is up, Mr. Deputy President, I will say

Some Honourable Members: Go on, go on. We want to hear you.

Miss Maniben Kara: I also wanted to say that to a very large extent I am disappointed as far as the expenditure side of the Budget is concerned. I do feel that the Honourable the Finance Member has not gone far enough to achieve his social objectives. If he had brought forward proposals which would have given a practical shape to his social objectives, with which he started his speech, I would have been very happy. I feel, Sir, that the expenditure on Defence, which is about 57 per cent, is absolutely uncalled for. After all if we keep up this expenditure on Defence, it only amounts to this that it is a preparation for war. Why do we want this? Are we afraid of any foreign attack, or are we afraid that there is going to be a war? When people want bread, let us not waste our money on bullets. Let us produce enough for our people. The private enterprise has declared political bankruptcy. They say that without profits they cannot produce. Sir, there has to be greater and greater production, because the needs of the people are becoming greater and greater.

Lastly, the Honourable the Finance Member has said that because of the constitutional and political insecurity, he cannot have long term plans. I would say, Sir, who is to be blamed for that? If these two political parties go on fighting, I give you a warning that the common man of India is not going to sit and watch and be played by both these parties which are quarrelling and fighting. The common man of India will replace all of you, and occupy the Treasury Benches.

Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan (Bakarganj cum Faridpur Muhammadan Rural). Mr. Deputy President, Sir. In his speech introducing the Budget, the Honourable the Finance Member said—

"The proposals that I have placed before this House whether they involve the levy of fresh or the abandonment of existing taxation are related not to purely financial purposes, but to certain social objectives, which I am sure the House will agree must be kept in view by all those who have the good of the countless millions of the vast sub-continent at heart."

As duly elected representatives of the people who have, in the words of the Honourable the Finance Member, "the good of the countless millions" of this country at heart, we should wholeheartedly welcome the Finance Bill. In doing so, let me add my voice to the chorus of congratulations that have been showered on the first Indian Finance Member. We have had budgets and Finance Bills in the past but never have we seen a national policy underlying

them. Therefore this occasion this year is unique in that for the first time we have an Indian Finance Member and he has presented a Budget based on certain definite social objectives.

Now that the dust and storm which were the first reactions to the Budget have subsided, we can judge the merits of the budget and the consequent taxation measures in a calmer atmosphere. While on the one hand capitalist interests have described the budget as sounding the death knell of private enterprise, others have hailed it as a poor man's budget or a socialistic budget, which has for its object the levelling up of gross inequalities in the distribution of wealth. Even its severest critic must admit that the budget and the Finance Bill are only an earnest attempt at a more equitable distribution of the incidence of taxation.

One outstanding result of the last war, Sir, has been the glaring inequalities that it has created. Whereas on one side there are people who have accumulated enormous fortunes as a result of the conditions created by the war, there are, on the other hand, millions who despite the larger volume of employment and higher wages are still below the subsistence level due to the inflation, abnormal prices of essential commodities and scarcity of foodgrains and consumer goods. In this state of affairs we must congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for having made a bold and unorthodox attempt to tackle the economic problems that have been agitating the minds of public men. The tradition with framers of budgets and finance bills has been to ignore the common man, the voiceless millions that form the backbone of this country. In the present budget and taxation proposals we can see the anxiety and desire of the Finance Member either to spare or to relieve to some extent the common man and put his hand into the pockets of those that can afford and who would be none the worse for parting with a little more to the State than what they would like to do.

Sir, chief among the reliefs to the poor man, as the House is aware, is the abolition of the salt tax, which I should describe as an epoch making event in the history of Indian taxation and it is certainly a matter for great congratulation that what has been an unfulfilled and almost universal desire in this country for a long time has become an accomplished fact in the first budget that it has been the privilege of the Honourable the Finance Member to present to this House. The history of the agitation against the salt tax goes back to over a quarter of a century, when Mr Gandhi led the salt satyagraha and since then this question has been foremost in the public mind as a measure of taxation relief to the poverty-stricken mass of the people of this country. So at long last the poor man has come to realize that he is not the forgotten entity that he has been till now in the national economy and that he can hope that his interests will hereafter receive their due consideration at the hand of the Government.

Another relief that the Finance Member has given to the next higher strata of society, what is called the lower middle classes, in regard to whose income, exemption from income-tax has been granted up to a limit of Rs. 2,500. This is an income group which would comprise a considerable bulk of the population, which has been hit very hard due to the present day high cost of living. Any tax on this income group would have been an unjust levy, which would have been acutely felt by them under present conditions and I am sure they would be very grateful to the Honourable Member for this relief, however small. Perhaps, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member could not unfortunately do more than what he has done, though of course there is a large field in which the poor man would have welcomed some relief. There are, for instance, commodities like kerosene, matches, betel nut, etc., in which the vast multitude of the poverty-stricken masses of this country are greatly interested, for they are almost indispensable necessities to the common man's daily existence. Any relief, however, small, in respect of these items would have earned their gratitude.

[Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan]

Such relief, I am conscious, Sir, would have involved greater taxation in other directions and even as the present financial proposals are they have evoked a storm of protest from the richer classes of society. After all the incidence of a just system of taxation must bear some relation to the capacity of the taxpayer to pay. Under the present proposals business profits are subjected to a special income tax when they exceed a certain limit. Professional and vocational earnings which have been untaxed hitherto have also hereafter to pay their share due to the public fisc and nobody would take exception to this. As has been admitted by the Honourable the Finance Member himself the taxation proposals are designed to achieve a common purpose, viz, to reduce the glaring and obvious disparities in incomes, and it will be realised, Sir, that this is the trend of all modern progressive public finance. The abolition of the Excess Profits Tax was considered by many as not a very wise move and in view of the deficit disclosed, its retention would have helped the country's finances to a considerable extent. In view of these considerations there will be general welcome to the proposals of the Finance Member to impose a tax on business profits, to raise the corporation tax and to apply the maximum super-tax rate at levels lower than the existing ones and also to levy a capital gains tax. These proposals are in complete accord with the principles that govern the present day taxation structure of all advanced countries.

Sir, today in India the capitalist or the industrialist is not the only target of taxation. It should be realised that the aim of the major political parties in India is the abolition of the zamindari system and in pursuance of that policy zamindars are being liquidated in provinces and agricultural income is gradually becoming subject to taxation just as income from any other source. Therefore, Sir, the business man or the capitalist is only one of the classes which is asked to contribute to public revenues, because it can afford to pay.

Sir, I should like to say a word about the Private Accumulations Enquiry Commission which the Honourable Member has proposed. I welcome the proposal. It is a notorious fact that tax-evasion or tax-dodging has gone on unchecked during the period of the war and since considerable sums of money made either in the black market or in secret deals in these days of inflation, scarcity of consumer goods and high prices, have been concealed and the State's legitimate share thereon has been denied. I hope the Honourable Member will make the Commission a strong body, whose labours will prove useful to the Government and will produce a salutary effect on a class of unscrupulous businessmen who have thriven most during the war years and whose continued activity on similar lines will prove a menace to ordered society in times of peace.

Sir, I desire to refer briefly to the matter of grants to the provinces. Coming as I do from a province which of any province in India felt the impact of the war most, besides having faced simultaneously the ravages of famine, I submit that Bengal stands on a different footing from any of the other provinces and deserves special consideration in this matter of grants from the Centre. Other provinces might have accumulated funds for their postwar development schemes, not having had the misfortune to undergo the sufferings that Bengal went through. Therefore if Bengal is to be rehabilitated, she would need a special grant in aid and I hope she would not be treated on a par with other provinces more fortunately placed.

Now, Sir, I come to the question of sterling balances and post-war industrial development. We feel reassured by the Finance Member's statement that the privations and sufferings which India had undergone during the war are no less than those of any other country directly affected by the war and with this in view he would secure a just and equitable settlement of the sterling balances. May I submit to the Honourable Member that these sterling balances represent the potential import of capital goods into this country and I hope

he will see to it that all provinces are treated fairly in the matter of the distribution of these capital assets. In this connection I would also like to emphasise that in any industrial policy that may be adopted by the Government they should see to it that no lopsided development is permitted to take place, industries being concentrated in a few of the more fortunate provinces in preference to others, where the need for such industrial expansion may be equally great.

On the question of controls I do not propose to say much, as the question has been fully debated on a cut motion. But, Sir, I would like to add my voice to what has already been said on the subject by emphasising that it must be the earnest endeavour of Government to follow a very judicious policy in the matter of either retaining or lifting any of the controls. Government, as they have themselves acknowledged, are fully alive to the abuses like black marketing and corruption which are engendered by these controls. In view of the sufferings which the mass of people have to undergo on account of these controls I hope Government will carefully examine all the controls and see that only those are retained which are absolutely necessary to ensure a proper distribution at reasonable prices of certain of the most essential commodities. They should also see to it that in the administration of such controls utmost vigilance is maintained to prevent both corruption and black marketing.

Sir, the question of food is still a matter which demands the utmost care and attention of the Government of India. I am keenly aware of all that is being done by way of imports from abroad and increased production at home through subsidies and grant of agricultural facilities to farmers. But it should be remembered that so long as there are cash crops which pay better than foodgrains the farmer's inclination would be to grow the cash crops, because besides getting more for his produce, he will be less subject to governmental control and interference. In the purchase of foodgrains from abroad such abnormal prices are paid to foreign agriculturists and I would submit to the Government to see whether it would not be worthwhile to profit the indigenous farmers by giving them larger subsidies and thus inducing them to grow more foodcrops.

Finally, Sir, I want briefly to refer to a subject in which my community is very keenly interested and more particularly the Muslims of my province. Since the port of Calcutta was declared open for Haj pilgrimage in 1931, the question which has been agitating the minds of Bengal Muslims is the erection of a decent pilgrim camp or *musafirkhana* in Calcutta. This is a long felt need and the absence of it is the cause of considerable suffering and inconvenience to the thousands of Haj pilgrims and their relations who have to come to Calcutta. The Government of Bengal has recommended the proposal to the Government of India. Mr. J. A. Rahim who conducted the Special Haj Enquiry recommended the implementation of the proposal as soon as possible and there is a plan ready which has been drawn up by a well known firm of architects in Calcutta. The Second Haj Conference consisting of representatives of the Government of India, members of the Standing Haj Committee, and representatives of the three Port Haj Committee and two shipping companies interested in the Haj traffic which met under the chairmanship of Dr. N. B. Khare, the then Member in charge, unanimously recommended that steps should be taken as early as possible to erect a *musafirkhana* in Calcutta for Haj pilgrims. The only difficulty in the way seems to be the question of finance—whether it is the responsibility of the Provincial Government or the Central Government. May I in this connection Sir, quote the clear and emphatic words of Dr. Khare, Member for the Commonwealth Relations Department. On the 1st March, 1944, in this House he said: "Haj pilgrimage stands quite apart from all other pilgrimages. It is a pilgrimage in which pilgrims go overseas and it is a central subject." In view of this statement and in view of the fact that the pilgrim camp at Karachi is maintained by the Government of India, I feel that there

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is no doubt as to the responsibility of the Government of India for the provision of a Haj pilgrim camp in Calcutta. I am aware of the proposal of the Government of India to enlarge and rebuild the pilgrim camp at Karachi, the need and urgency of which is certainly unquestionable. But may I submit, Sir, that the need for such a camp in Calcutta is as much, if not more, and I hope that there will be no further delay in the matter and that Government will take up the work on the pilgrim camps at both places simultaneously.

Sir, I have come to the end of my speech. It was indeed a pleasure for me to speak thus far on a budget and the financial proposals embodying the same, which have for the first time in our history the achievement of a certain measure of social justice. For once a Finance Member has had the courage to put in practice the *Quranic* precept (which no one will take exception to) that wealth should not be allowed to circulate among the wealthy and that it is a danger to society to allow too large accumulations of wealth in the hands of a few individuals. Though the taxation proposals have not done as much to the poorer masses of the country as they have a right to expect, yet as the Honourable Member himself has said in his budget speech, he did not claim that his "proposals represent anything more than the first stage of a policy of social justice and development which will require years to bring into full fruition." I earnestly hope and pray that it will be the Honourable Mr Liaquat Ali Khan's good fortune to hasten that day of fruition and to see this country's administration based on that principle of social justice which is so dear to his and our hearts.

Sir, I have done.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput Non-Muhamadani Rural). Sir, I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for having decided to abolish the salt tax. But there is one thing which he must see to. He should see that salt is available to the poor man at cheaper rates. So far as we in Madras are concerned salt is purchased from the producing centres by weight but the merchants sell by measure. There is variation in the different kinds of salts which are produced at different centres. A two maund bag in some places contains about 55 to 60 measures and the same bag in some other places measure 35 to 40 measures. This leads to a lot of profiteering by merchants and middlemen who deal in salt. The Finance Member must issue some notification abolishing sale of salt by measure in all places. Unless this is done the poor man, for whose benefit the salt tax has been abolished, would not be able to derive any benefit from it. The merchants and middlemen who have been already making profits on the sale of salt will even now make more profits in spite of the abolition of the salt tax.

The next point which I would urge on the Honourable the Finance Member is this. In his budget speech he laid stress on the fact that in the Government of India there is a lot of wasteful expenditure which could very well be avoided. He said:

"I am aware that there is a feeling in this House that the Central Government expenditure needs scrutiny in certain respects. I agree that if only for the purpose of conserving our resources for development there may be certain directions in which such economy can be usefully exercised. It may, for instance, be found that some of the establishments of the Government of India are susceptible of reduction."

Having said this he became very apologetic in the later portion of the same paragraph, where he has said:

"I should, however, make it clear that my object in proposing an Economy Committee of this nature is not to conduct a retrenchment campaign in the sense in which that expression is ordinarily understood."

My submission is that what the Honourable Member has said in the earlier portion of the paragraph is quite correct. He should have taken courage in both hands and said that he was for retrenchment wherever it was possible and necessary. We know that the Government establishment has grown more than four times. Where there were 500 officers before, the number has become 2,000 in the gazetted posts. I do not think it can be claimed that the retention of all these posts is necessary. Is it in the interests of the country to keep all those persons whose services are not necessary and go on paying them? It does not mean that it is a productive industry. The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad said that if you pay a little increased price to the agriculturist for his food crops, it means inflation and also increased wages to the labourer. If you go on paying persons whose services are not necessary, the result will be inflation and not deflation. I have heard the Leader of the House and also the Honourable Member for Industries say "What are you going to do with these people?" I have an answer. You can create opportunities for all these people. Start new industries. Nationalise some of these industries so that you can give greater scope to these intelligent men, whose services can be utilised. Most of them are very intelligent and are capable of running those industries instead of rotting in Government departments. There is no scope for them to exercise their intelligence in Government service. I want the Honourable the Finance Member to take courage and not be apologetic in having this Committee appointed at once to devise ways and means for cutting down expenditure which has grown more than four hundred per cent since 1939.

The next item which needs scrutiny as far as expenditure is concerned is Defence. When I read the explanatory memorandum of the Defence Department I find that this year the expenditure is reduced by 50 crores. If you take into consideration the number of men who have been demobilised, it comes in the army to a little over eight lakhs. Besides that in the Air Force and the Royal Indian Navy persons have been demobbed to an extent beyond which you cannot go, according to the statement of the Defence Secretary and the Explanatory Memorandum. And they also say that you could only reduce it by demobbing two lakhs of men. Are we to expect that by reducing two lakhs of men next year you will considerably reduce the expenditure on the defence services? Surely not. The strength of the Indian army in the beginning of the budget year will be about nine lakhs and odd and the sum that is required for expenditure is about 188 crores. If we demob about two lakhs of men I do not think it will considerably reduce the amount of defence expenditure. I do not grudge money being spent on the defence services but I say that money should not be spent on items which are unnecessary. There is a proposal to purchase—I do not know if it has been completed—three cruisers from the British Government. I am told that they will cost more than four or five million pounds. I do not know what their use is; if they are useful to the British Government would they be willing to sell them to this Government? That has to be verified. And after all what is the use of these cruisers for India? In these days of air warfare these cruisers are not going to serve any purpose so far as our country is concerned. These cruisers that will be stationed on the shores on the three sides of India may not help us very much and their presence may not be useful in preventing air attacks from other countries.

Nothing has been done in our country to establish scientific research so far as production of arms is concerned. Every country is spending crores for producing atom bombs and other destructive weapons and also weapons to counter them. In this budget we do not find any provision for any of these necessary researches being made for the benefit of our country. The other day when some of us raised the question of Indian Army Ordnance Officers, the Secretary and the Honourable Defence Member emphatically stated that it was not possible to take them in and there was a proposal to demob them and send them away. But on page 19 of the memorandum supplied to us it is said:

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"Not only has it become necessary to increase the length and scope of specialised training and education but questions concerning the comfort and general well-being of the soldier have assumed much greater importance. The mechanisation and modernisation generally of the forces has necessitated the provision of much more expensive vehicles, weapons, ammunition and equipment of all kinds. As a result, the cost of the administrative services has increased very considerably in relation to the direct costs of the armed forces. During the year 1947-48 the cost of those services entrusted with the custody and handling of stores will be abnormally heavy owing to the large accumulations of surplus stocks in charges of the defence services. This applies particularly to the Indian Army Ordnance Corps and the Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineer Corps."

Again on page 29 of the same memorandum it is said

"The Indian Army Ordnance Corps is responsible for the receipt, custody and distribution of clothing stores, M. T. vehicles, ammunition, weapons and other Ordnance stores required by all the Defence Services. The officers for the Corps are drawn from the various armed services and undergo specialised training in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps School. Other ranks are recruited through the regular army recruiting agencies and given training in the ordinary duties of the Corps in the Training Centres. Specialised training is given to selected other ranks at the School."

My information is that the officers who have been already sent and who will be sent away hereafter had their training for six months. They were selected by the university heads and most of them had undergone Federal Public Service Commission examination. They were the best from the universities, and such men have been asked to go under the pretext that these people will have to make room for men with military experience. I do not know what charm there is in trying to keep men with military experience for these posts; I am told that there is no need for any military training at all for these posts. The officers who are there—about 930 or so—have had their training and they will serve the same purpose as these other officers are serving. Sir, this deserves an explanation from the Defence Secretary.

Then coming to my usual cry about increased prices for foodgrain, I do not want to say anything more than what has already been said. I have repeatedly stated that an increase of one rupee per maund of paddy means for an individual every month about six annas and three pies. I said this several times and I am sorry to say that one of the Honourable Members ridiculed this idea, though not here but somewhere else. I do not want to repeat it again but I should like to impress the economic aspect of that demand. The economic maxim is that when a thing is wanted and a proper case for its production is made out we are not entitled to aim at its being provided at a price that will mean the degradation of the life of those who produce it. We have no right to buy coals at the price of malnutrition of the miner's child or potatoes at that of the agricultural labourer's. When the case is pressed to this extent it means the entrenchment and acceptance of poverty as a necessary evil, which it is not. It means that coolie labour standards are justifiable. If we have not income enough to pay a just price it is our standard of life that is wrong. We ought to have money enough. Then Sir, another maxim is that the secret of successful industry is to buy your finance cheap and sell your produce dear. The Indian buys his finance dear and sells his produce cheap. Sir, in Madras a measure of rice sells at six annas and six pies; here in Delhi the same quantity sells for fifteen annas. I do not know why this disparity should be maintained. This needs an explanation. I do not want to repeat what I have already said on this question. I again commend this for the sympathetic consideration of the Cabinet as a whole and not of the Food Member only.

So far as the Grow More Food Campaign is concerned, I have already stated some of my experiences, and I should like to state another. The department said that we can have materials for irrigation. We were asked to apply to the Controller of Steel and Iron. I went there with an application for pipes; he said that the application should come through the Engineer of the Electrical Department. I asked him who this Electrical Engineer is to whom I should go.

It was either the Superintendent or the Assistant Secretary. I don't know what his designation was. He said 'That is not my business to tell you. We are not here to teach you. You go and find out'. If that is the sort of answer which I got, I request you to imagine the sort of reply which a poor man from the villages will get.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member's time is over. He can finish in one minute. He was to finish in 15 minutes. He has taken 18 minutes.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Sir, I commend to the consideration of the Secretary of the Agricultural Department all these matters. Not only the distribution of manure but also the distribution of seeds must have special attention. Either the Department must have special staff and be reorganised or they should leave it to the ordinary trade channels. With these words, I resume my seat.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 25th March 1947.

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